The Angel resident

TWO'S COMPANY
Meet N1's foodie duos

STREET CRED
From Corrie to Barnsbury, Charlie Condou on his dual life

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Welcome to

The Angel resident

When I first started working in Islington over a decade ago, one of my first jobs was to accompany my then editor to an interview at what he classed as 'the best restaurant in the area'. Its name was Moro and I could tell from his enthusiasm that he saw snagging an interview with co-founders Samantha and Samuel Clark as a real coup.

Fast forward to today and plenty has changed with the area, but Moro's quality remains a constant. Sam and Sam, as we all know them, remain at the helm and with the exception of tapas restaurant Morito next door, have stuck to their guns and resisted the temptation to open elsewhere in London. Not everyone is the same, however, as this issue we celebrate some of the duos who have taken the Islington foodie scene by storm in different ways.

Double vision is something I am sure our cover star Charlie Condou endures plenty of given his working life is based up in Manchester, whereas his family life is right here in Barnsbury. He's an interesting character known by literally everyone in Islington, and not just because he is a star of *Coronation Street* – he simply comes across as a thoroughly nice man. We find out what keeps him in North London rather than heading up north for good.

Talking of couples, we investigate a fabulous property conjured up from the imaginations of two local architects, but we don't forget those going solo with a look at Jenny Hughes' new Home & Pantry website and the story of Eleni Duke, who defied the sceptics to become one of the youngest gallerists around. See you next month.

Mark Kebble
Editor

This month I have... been building bonds with man's best friend. Firstly on developing our social networking partnership with Dogs Trust, before heading up to Pup Aid in NW1 to show my support for this most vital of initiatives.

The heart of N1

Plenty has changed in Islington, but Moro's quality remains a constant

This month's cover: Charlie Condou

This month's contributors

Launching his eponymously named architectural company in 2011, **Dominic McKenzie** has seen his work published extensively in the UK and internationally. The former winner of the Stirling Prize talks about local inspiration.

A firm favourite on Camden Passage already, **Jenny Hughes** is set to charm the internet too as she has launched Home & Pantry's stunning website. If shabby chic and rustic style is for you and your home, read all about it on page 39.

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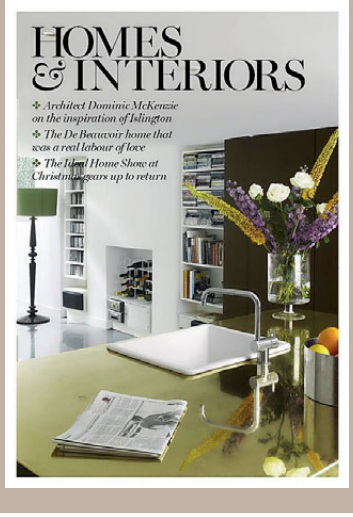

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Angel life

Musical royalty converge on North London as a Duke is named green champion

Clean sweep

Acclaimed designer Lee Broom has unveiled Electra House, his first dedicated showroom and retail space. Interconnecting with his design studio on Rivington Street, the new showroom will act as a gallery and retail space. Designed by the man himself, the contemporary showroom will present the complete Lee Broom range of lighting and furniture in unexpected ways. Dramatic, custom-made and oversized two metre high bell jars containing illuminated furniture will be on show, and other pieces will be displayed on rotating turntables, creating movement within the space. Inspired by the curiosity shop, the showroom will have a sense of the surreal.

✤ 95 Rivington Street EC2A 3AY; 020 7820 0742; leebroom.com

EDITOR'S PICK OF THE MONTH

Angel's finest buys

LOCAL LUXE

The Kawbow navy suede bootie is the latest from Chie Mihara. Incredibly comfortable, her shoes take influence from the 30s and 40s, yet have a wonderful feminine touch. £320.

✤ 309 Upper Street N1 2TU; 020 7704 0043; spiceshu.co.uk

Bang & Olufsen present the new BeoPlay H6, a superb sound experience that is just like being at the studio recording. They also look great, priced at £329.

✤ 272 Upper Street N1 2XN; 020 7226 3322; beoplay.com

White Stuff's new jewellery collection includes a selection of colourful statement necklaces that look great accompanying a T-shirt. £22.50.

✤ 12-14 Essex Road N1 8LN; 020 7354 8204; whitestuff.com

Food for thought

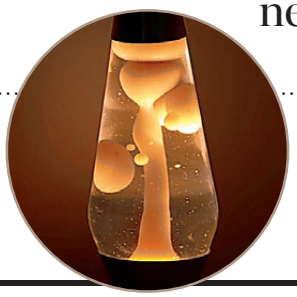
Pierre Maitre took over as General Manager at Almeida Restaurant in June this year, but he moved quickly to build on their relationship with Islington Giving...

How important is the local community to you?
Very important. I find it crucial to develop relationships with locals, and to nurture that in everything I do.

Why are you a keen supporter of Islington Giving?
D&D as a group [who owns the Almeida Restaurant] supports diverse charities all year long, but as I think of Almeida as a neighbourhood restaurant, we wanted to support a local charity.

In what ways are you supporting them?
By using the restaurant to collect donations. We also recently brainstormed an idea that involves putting some rickshaws in place, so we can offer a ride to guests back to Angel Tube or close to theatres like Sadler's Wells. It could be a great way to raise money.

✤ Find out more at almeida-restaurant.co.uk – and visit islingtongiving.org.uk to see how you can support the charity



Colourful past

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of a British design icon, Aria is launching a Mathmos limited edition lava lamp

Pick of the pubs

The Duke of Cambridge in Islington has been awarded the title of greenest pub in London, in a competition run by the Jellied Eel magazine, the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) and the Ethical Eats catering network. Almost 40 of the capital's pubs were in the running for the award, which covers not just the drinks on offer, but the food, their environmental practices and links with the local community. The Duke of Cambridge has championed sustainable food and drink for 15 years and was the country's first organic pub.

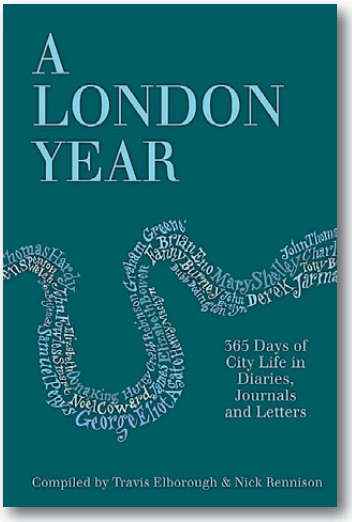
CELEB SPOT

Festival feast

Held throughout September up the road at Camden's Roundhouse, the iTunes Festival line-up saw some of the biggest names in music take to the stage. It all began on 1 September with Lady Gaga, with acts including Arctic Monkeys, Primal Scream and Katy Perry (above) all appearing among the 60 acts involved.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

A London Year, compiled by Travis Elborough and Nick Rennison, £25



A London Year: 365 Days of City Life in Diaries, Journals and Letters is an anthology of short diary entries, which taken together provides an impressionistic portrait of life in the city from Tudor times to the 21st century.

There are more than 200 featured writers. The most famous diarist – Samuel Pepys – is included, as well as some of today's finest diarists like Alan Bennett and Chris Mullin. There are coronations and executions, election riots and zeppelin raids, duels, dust-ups and drunken sprees. Vividly evoking moments in the lives of Londoners over five centuries, providing snapshots of the city's inhabitants at work and play, *A London Year* is the perfect book for all who live in or love this eternal, ever-changing city.

✤ Available to buy from 3 October at Waterstones, 11 Islington Green N1 0QD; 0843 290 8411

There are coronations and executions, election riots and zeppelin raids, duels and dust-ups

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Emma-Lily Pendleton @EmmaLPendleton
Miss bubble tea so much & just found @BrewBoxLDN on Camden Passage on way 2 interview @FelixLilys for @angelmag #yay

Angel Shed Theatre @angelshed
@angelmag Thanks for the tweet! We are also looking for new children to join the Children's Theatre age 7-11 Thurs eve 5.30pm-6.45pm!

RMG Press Relations @RMG_PR
@angelmag great to read that adults don't miss out on the fun with @HomeExchangecom as @Rosiemillard points out

Islington Giving @isgiv
Read the latest @isgiv newsletter with updates from @AgeUK_Islington @Freightcityfarm @angelmag and @global_gen

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Rosie Millard

Lo and behold, Sunday is causing a stir in Barnsbury of biblical proportions

My month

✤ Car-2-Go. Alright. I'm smitten. I know I was had up by the police for shoving two children into one of these, but driving this on my own, it is brilliant.

✤ Chapel Market. Is there any end to the delights of going Up Chap? It's not just the food, you know. Recent purchases have included luminous nail varnish, dog grooming, and a pair of bright blue high heeled mules for £7.10.

✤ Jack Salt. I was ready to turn my nose up at this groovy tapas venue on Upper Street, which has had all sorts of teething problems when it opened, but actually we had a delicious meal there.

✤ Diverse on Upper Street, particularly when the annual summer sale coincides with my daughter's birthday. Now she's old enough, the groovy style of Diverse is perfect.

And so it came to pass (perhaps after this very magazine flagged up the lack of it) that decent coffee arrived in Barnsbury. And lo! The multitude did flock to the little cafe and ate of the sourdough bread and drank of the Americano and knew that it was good. And it was good. And neighbour said unto neighbour: 'It's just as well that we didn't have a huge row about that noisy party you had recently, otherwise that would have been an embarrassing cup of coffee.'

Well, its not quite been like that, but very nearly. Every single time I have visited the new cafe in Barnsbury serving decent coffee – indeed, the only cafe in Barnsbury serving decent coffee – I have bumped into a neighbour.

The question therefore is this. Is this new cafe, which is called Sunday (readers may know it as the late, not-very-lamented Fig) the answer to our dreams? Not really. It is absolutely tiny. It doesn't serve avocado spiked with chilli on toast. It won't valet park your car. But it does serve decent coffee, and other lovely things for breakfast.

Sunday is the best thing since, well, sliced bread

Of course we smug lot in Barnsbury already have things like gazpacho and nice coffee and sourdough bread in our houses (and if we don't, whose fault is that?). It's not THAT difficult to get hold of a coffee grinder and some beans and a pot. A quick sortie to Euphorium bakery on Upper Street will get you a loaf of sourdough bread. And you can get Bonne Maman jam at the Co-Op. And a beautiful cup from Aria.

But here's the thing. Judging from the popularity of Sunday (which is always rammed with neighbours whenever I visit it at any time of night or day), people don't want just good coffee and sourdough toast in the morning, or nicely cooked mackerel, seasonal vegetables and pasta at night.

We like eating this stuff, of course, but we don't always want to have it at home. We don't always want to breakfast in our Germanic designer kitchens, where we can see the washing up and hear the children. We want to go out to eat it, in a local but stylish place, and we want to eat it alongside our neighbours. Yes, it's contrary but true. Voluntarily, we wish to leave our giant knock-through, marble-countered, floor-heated cooking arenas that we have furnished with boiling water taps and wine fridges, which took six months to construct and for which we paid more than a cardiac nurse earns in a year. And we want to go and sit in a miniscule room on some rickety chairs and eat sourdough, cheek by jowl with our neighbours.

Sunday is tiny. It doesn't serve avocado spiked with chilli on toast. It won't valet park your car. But it does serve decent coffee and other lovely things for breakfast

Well... not everyone does. A (married) friend of mine used to use the not-late-lamented Fig as a convenient place in which to meet her lover. It was perfect. Nobody she knew used to go there. These days, it's hopeless. The other day, she arrived at the assignation, and spotted not only the sight of her beloved sitting in the corner, but also one of her neighbours, at an adjoining table. 'Hi there!' shouted the neighbour, much to the horror of both my friend and her illicit amour. Eeek.

✤ Agree with Rosie? Share your thoughts on this column at twitter.com/angelmag

Streets ahead

Charlie Condou is well versed in embracing different personas on screen, but as he tells Michael Cameron, there's nowhere quite like Barnsbury for him

When Charlie Condou isn't switching from gay to straight, and who knows what next, as the character Marcus Dent on *Coronation Street*, he is gay and lives with his partner and two young children in the Barnsbury corner of Islington – the area has been his home for nigh on seven years now.

He started as a child actor at the age of 11 and has worked pretty consistently since. Over the years he has been on an episode of *Gimme Gimme Gimme* (Kathy Burke, another Islington local, was already a friend at that point) and a regular for a while on *Armstrong & Miller*. The recent jobs he's most proud of are *Nathan Barley*, a cult series created by Charlie Brooker and Chris Morris, where he played the magazine editor and all-round media monster Jonatton Yeah? (sic), and, of course, *Coronation Street*. His character Marcus Dent first appeared in the long running British institution in 2007, leaving a year later only to return again in 2011 to pick up the storyline of Marcus's relationship with Sean Tully, played by Anthony Cotton.

Playing Marcus Dent, opposite Antony Cotton's Sean Tully

'It's surprising how many young people stop me to talk about *Nathan Barley*, even though it was made nearly a decade ago,' observes Charlie. 'It still seems to have a huge cult following and it's something I'm immensely proud of.' And then there are the people who stop him to talk about *Corrie*. 'When you're in people's homes so many nights a week you become a part of their lives,' he smiles. 'They want to chat to me like they're old friends. It takes a while to get used to that.'

Charlie tells a story of being in Toronto recently, to promote *Corrie* – apparently the show is big in Canada. He expected a degree of anonymity on the streets of a city he'd never been to before, but instead was stopped by more friendly people wanting to chat. Likewise in Sydney when he was there recently… It's a lucky man who has so many friends he doesn't know about.

> When you're in people's homes so many nights a week you become part of their lives. They chat to me like they're old friends

He grew up mostly in Soho, where his parents ran a series of restaurants with people like the chefs Bruno Loubet and Anthony Demetre. Loubet is Michelin starred; his most recent venture is Grain Store in the new King's Cross development, a restaurant that probably needs no introduction because it has been so talked about in the media recently. Demetre went on to create an empire including Arbutus and Wild Honey, which again are both much-fêted. Charlie's family currently runs Paramount, at the top of Centrepoint.

Charlie is gregarious and legendarily knows everyone – and especially everyone in the acting profession in London. 'That comes from a time when I worked in my parents' restaurant as a waiter,' he says with a laugh. 'I guess I've always found it easy to talk to people and get to know them.'

Speaking of everyone, he says he moved to Barnsbury because of two friends who used to live there: the actors Neve Campbell and John Light had a house on the square. He and his partner were always over there hanging out, often staying over out of sheer laziness ('It was a 15-minute walk back to the place I used to live in Bloomsbury, and we couldn't be bothered'). They needed a larger place and Barnsbury was already beginning to feel like home, so they bought a house near the square as well.

Café culture

✤ Local loves

When they aren't in Islington's squares and playgrounds, Charlie and his partner's favourite places are Caravan in King's Cross (above) and Maison d'Etre on the Highbury roundabout (they are coffee snobs, he says, but like a lot of media types they also like getting work done in trendy cafés). Local pubs like the Drapers Arms and the Albion are great for a pint – and according to Charlie, nothing beats the pizzas at the Regent on Liverpool Road.

The Albion, just one local Barnsbury hotspot Charlie loves

He had two children through IVF with a straight female friend who lives nearby in Kentish Town; they co-parent and divide the week, factoring in his absences to Manchester to film *Corrie* (though sometimes the children relocate up north with him, something he wrote about extensively in a weekly column in the Guardian for over year).

I put it to him that this sounds like a complicated life. 'It can be a real headache,' he admits, 'but the schedule at *Corrie* is up in the air from week to week anyway. You get used to it. Anyway, my daughter loves being up there. She calls it "Daddy's Manchester",' Charlie grins.

He talks with a lot of affection about the behind-the-scenes life at Granada studios, where *Corrie* is filmed. The other actors on the show sound like a down to earth, friendly bunch. The 'green room' at the studio, where the actors wait to go on, have a coffee or whatever, and sit and chat, seems to have the atmosphere of a student common room. 'I have to admit I sometimes go into the green room even when I'm not working just because it's fun to hang out,' Charlie says.

Back in Barnsbury, he's equally at home. He relates how he and his partner didn't really know the community until they had kids. After she started to walk his daughter became obsessed with 'puppies', and loved to go to the square to see them. As a consequence he got to know a wide range of neighbours through their dogs, and the friendships have continued to blossom. As he rightly points out: 'It's a lovely feeling of community that I haven't experienced since I lived in Soho.'

Lately Charlie has become increasingly active in charity work: he is a long-time supporter of organizations like Stonewall and the Terence Higgins Trust, but he also gives his full support to smaller groups like the Albert Kennedy Trust (which aims to get homeless gay young people off the streets) and Diversity Role Models (which combats anti-gay bullying, and bullying generally, in schools).

He has a lot on his plate. When does he get time to put his feet up? 'One thing that having kids has brought us is a lot of quiet evenings, once the kids are tucked up in bed, watching box sets.' And he talks about how relaxed and friendly the neighbourhood is – whether they are working class or have a knighthood (as one in fact does), he says that a good many of his neighbours take the time to stop and say hello as he is herding his kids up the pavement. There can't be many areas of London you can say that about.

Barnsbury has a lovely feeling of community that I haven't experienced since I lived in Soho

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IF YOU BUY ONE THING THIS **MONTH**

Make a nod to the Saint Lauren-inspired grunge trend with Romana Cristini's skull-encrusted Dark Moon necklace, £370. Slathered in Swarovski crystals and semi-precious onyx, it's a statement accessory guaranteed to get you noticed.

romanacristini.com

Style NEWS

Sinequanone
Collarless Cream Black and Red Checked Long Coat, £228.

sinequanone.com

Chic investment

Sometimes the best things in life are simple. This Melina Leather Shopper Bag, £95 by Oliver Bonas, effortlessly complements the new-season coats and looks great against any colour or fabric. It's light, spacious and perfectly finished off with stud detailing for added security.

Oliver Bonas, 147-148 Upper Street N1 1RA; 020 7424 5305; oliverbonas.com

French Connection
Belle Boucle Wool Coat, £200.

N1 Centre, 2 Parkfield Street N1 0PS; 020 7288 0308; frenchconnection.com

MALE ORDER

Get cosy with a beautifully made outdoor jacket, such as Viyella's brand new Green Overcheck Field Coat, £375. Inspired by British heritage and country elements, the neutral colour and casual design has a relaxed, urban edge, perfect for hiking or people-watching on Camden Passage.

viyella.co.uk

Oasis
Tonal Storm Mac, £90.

N1 Centre, 21 Parkfield Street N1 0PS: 020 359 5620: oasis-stores.com

THREE'S A TREND

Grab your coat

A statement coat instantly updates a tired outfit, and this season saw several diverse styles dominate the catwalk. Borrow from your boyfriend with an oversized, masculine cut in a playful shade, or wrap up in a cocoon with an exaggerated shape, as seen at Celine for A/W. No-nonsense prints, such as houndstooth or checks, represent a fierce femininity.

Edited by **Trudie Carter-Pavelin**

171 hair&beauty

EXM hair & beauty

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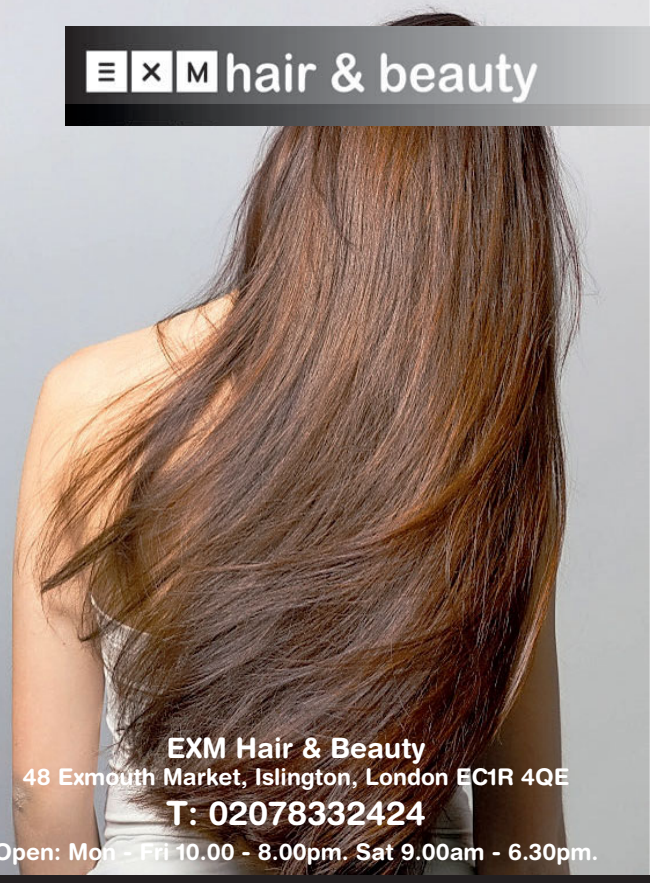

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THREE'S A TREND

Vamp Up

As the weather darkens and the nights get longer, step into an ultra glamorous persona with a moody lip colour. Go for a blood red with darker pigments instead of a neon bright, such as **Hourglass' Opaque Rouge Liquid Lipstick, £23, in Raven** (available from Space NK, 299 Upper Street, N1 2TU; 020 7704 2822). A bold berry shade such as the **Ultra Moisturising Lip Paint, £4.99 from Barry M in Vicious Violet**, perfectly flatters olive and darker-skin types (35-37 Islington High Street N1 9LH; 020 7837 3430; boots.com). For the ultimate entrance, don't be afraid to try an off-black tone, such as the **Illamasqua Lipstick in Growl, £16.50**, a seductive dark burgundy with a hint of chocolate brown (illamasqua.co.uk). Vampirish glamour isn't just for Halloween.

Beauty NEWS

The Angel resident LOVES

Brighter note

This month sees the launch of the Triple Oxygen ex-'glow'-sion Moisture Cream, £55 for 50ml, from Bliss. Enriched with vital minerals, the luscious cream instantly brightens skin with antioxidant vitamin E, and enriches beneath the surface for healthy, hydrated skin on the inside, and a dewy, flawless complexion on the outside.

✤ blissworld.co.uk

Classic colours

New make-up brand Boutique have launched a capsule collection exclusively at Sainsbury's, providing go-to essentials in classic shades. Tried and tested by beauty insiders Jo Saville and Sophia Price, the range is based on colour and includes nail polishes in shades such as Tickled Pink, £5, and lipsticks such as Paint The Town Red and In The Buff, £7.

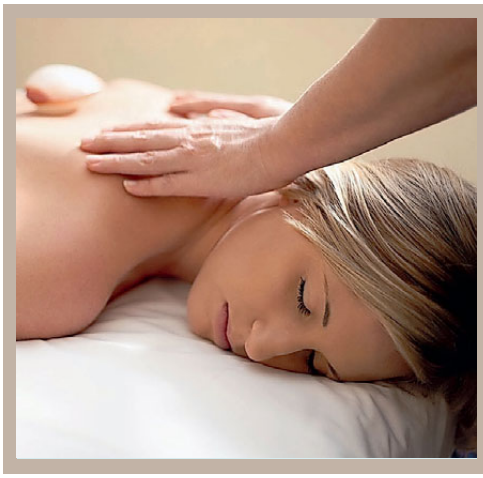
✤ 31-41 Liverpool Road N1 0RW; 020 7278 1789

LOCAL LUXE

MALE ORDER

Luxury men's grooming professionals Gentlemen's Tonic have opened their first express bar within the St Pancras Renaissance Hotel, so there is no better reason to treat yourself or your significant other this month. Gentlemen's Tonic provides a high quality service, along with a traditional barber shop experience.

✤ St Pancras Renaissance Hotel, Euston Road NW1 2AR; 020 7383 0027; gentlemenstonic.com



Spa of the month

Kimantra Urban Spa

Kimantra offers a small spot of heaven amongst the hustle and bustle of Camden Passage. Take a break from your busy routine and engage in a Hot Stone massage, £79, or for an indulgent experience, we recommend Bathing on the Roof, providing total relaxation.

✤ 5 Camden Passage N1; 020 7226 8860; kimantra.co.uk

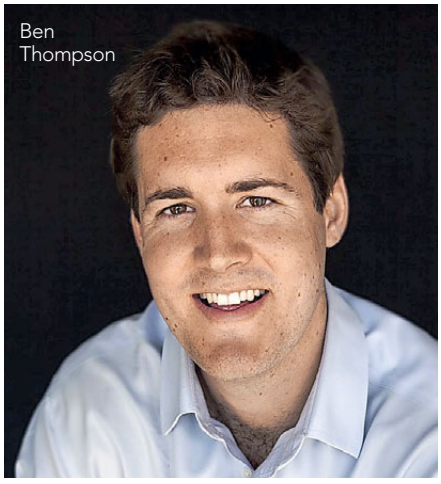
Edited by Trudie Carter-Pavelin

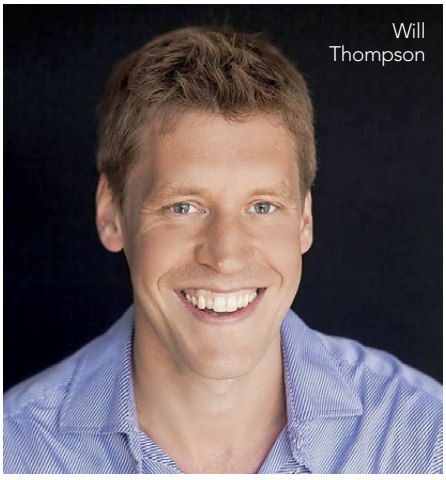
Double vision

With Vivo opening on Upper Street, run by brothers Will and Ben Thompson, we look at the dynamic duos who have changed the local foodie scene

FIRST VENTURE

Vivo promises a new 'all day dining experience' on Upper Street, so Emma-Lily Pendleton meets the brothers behind it to find out what to expect


Ben Thompson


Will Thompson

Tasting wine and testing chefs, extensive travel across the varying landscape of Italy, honing their understanding of its differing regional cuisines and sourcing authentic ingredients. Brothers Ben and Will Thompson have cut no corners in their combined three years of full-time research and preparation that has finally culminated in the opening of their first venture together, Upper Street's Vivo.

'We're passionate about food and we always have been,' enthuses Ben. 'We've been going to Italy year after year from a young age – it's a fantastic country. We found that everyone here has their idea of generic Italian food, but we've travelled extensively across the country and experienced unique regional dishes – and we want to bring that to the UK high street.'

In addition to their food, it's the Italian approach to dining that the brothers are keen bring to London. 'Their approach to casual dining is so different. We've got Italian friends who visit and love the city, but get very frustrated that you can't eat certain things at certain times,' explains Will. 'If at 10pm you get peckish, you want to go into a restaurant and not feel compelled to have a big meal.'

If at 10pm you get peckish, you want to go into a restaurant and not feel compelled to have a big meal

At Vivo the kitchen will always be open: from eight until late you will be able to choose from the range of sweet and savoury foods. Anything from a slice of olive oil plum cake to pizza rustica, a focaccia-like stuffed bread. 'The style is true to Italian bakeries, restaurants and patisseries in cities like Turin, Rome and Milan. It's a fantastic concept,' smiles Will.

Their meticulous selection has extended to the kitchen staff – they have taken no risks. 'We find it amazing that people take on chefs when they haven't seen their work,' says Will. 'We narrowed it down to four potential candidates and hired a professional kitchen to test them in – we gave them two-and-a-half hours to make five dishes that we'd selected and Alessandro really stood out. He has been with us as Head Chef since February.'

Alessandro de Santis is from Rome but has a fine dining background, coming from Saville Row's Sartoria and with experience working at Heston Blumenthal's The Fat

Red onion marmalade, Stracchino cheese and parsley crust pie

Expect fabulous diversity when it comes to Vivo's pastries and tarts

The Angel resident LOVES

Duck. 'He's been working on the menu with us and he's mad on fresh ingredients,' assures Will. Also on board in the kitchen is a Sicilian pastry chef, headhunted from a patisserie in Milan, and a baker tempted over from Rome. They'll live on site, cooking fresh produce every day, baked in-house and displayed on the 14-metre-long granite counter that will run nearly the full depth of Vivo.

'It's a visual concept,' explains Will. 'The counter will be filled with food up until we close – dessert, pizza slices, salads, pastries, baked goods – it'll sit in different sections and you can buy over the counter or eat in.'

Alongside the better known paninis and pizza will be the more unusual offerings including torta rustica, a pastry-encased Italian pie that's comparable to a quiche. Also among the hot and savoury will be soups and pasta dishes, antipasti and salads.

All of this can be enjoyed in a modern interior designed by award-winning designer, Chris Martel, with York stone and oak flooring, split-face timber paneling and organic-looking stone feature walls. Amongst the many attractions is the roof terrace that has a retractable canopy, ready to tempt you to sit outside, whatever the weather brings.

The style is true to Italian bakeries and restaurants in cities like Turin, Rome and Milan

The doors open from 8am and you can start your day deciding between breakfast pizzas, a doughnut-style sweet Cannoli and the regular continental offerings. In keeping with Italian café culture, your breakfast can be enjoyed with coffee supplied by a renowned Neapolitan roaster, Kimbo. Into the evening, the fully-licensed bar offers a selection of wines from various Italian regions as well as prosecco and Italian beers, spirits and cocktails. But come straight from work and you can experience a real taste of Italian culture in aperitivo hour: as the clock strikes 6pm the bars of Milan are filled with people unwinding over a Milanese bitter drink, similar to a cocktail, served with a platter of food.

As the evening wears on, diners can enjoy the aforementioned torta rustica, authentic Roman pizza 'al taglio' (rectangular slices), specialty cheese and meat boards, and heartier dishes like hot signature favourites lasagne and cannelloni.

It isn't often you get to taste the flavours of another's travels but with Vivo, the brothers' years of research are there, laid out on the expanse of granite, ready to be enjoyed. It's been three years in the making, but we're sure it won't take long for Vivo to convert Angel residents to its continental ways.

✤ Vivo, 57-58 Upper Street N1 0NY; vivotaste.com

Vivo's bread basket

Sam & Sam Clark

THE ORIGINALS

Samantha Clark is one half of the famed Sam & Sam team behind Exmouth Market's Moro. Here she tells Mark Kebble about a marriage made in culinary heaven

How did you and Sam meet?
I was working at The Eagle on Farringdon Road – that was my first cooking job. While there, Sam was looking for a job as he was just finishing at River Café, where he had been working for five years. The Eagle at the time was the first gastropub and had had wonderful reviews, with queues forming around the block. I actually met Sam through a mutual friend in 1994 and then he came and got a job at The Eagle – just as I got a job at River Café, so we had the reverse experience! My time at the River Café helped me think about cooking in a very similar way to Sam, so it was the perfect preparation to open Moro.

Were you married at the time of opening Moro?
We had just got married. We opened Moro in the spring of 1997, and we got married in June 1996. I left River Café before we got married, and then we went on a three month journey around Morocco, Spain and the Sahara while the restaurant was being built. I had met a friend at university called Mark Sainsbury, who also happened to be a good friend of Sam's. Mark and I left university and we thought we would do something together, but we needed experience. When I came to London I decided to go off and work in a kitchen and Mark went off to work front of house. So the original plan was that I was going to open a restaurant with Mark. Sam was going to do the same with a friend of his from River Café. Then we started dating and it got to the point where it was a bit ridiculous pursuing two separate projects, so we all decided to join forces.

Does it help to be married?
There are advantages and disadvantages. You never get away from work and bring it home with you, but that's not necessarily a bad thing – it's quite good speaking about work when you are away from it in a calmer environment. It was a big learning curve when we started working together. We never expected Moro to be quite so busy – because it was so intense for the first two years, we just had to learn to work together properly.

How have things changed over the years?
With experience we have learnt about the type of person we want to work for us – which means it's such a pleasure to be at work. In terms of a working environment, it's a very positive one. It's the experience that makes you a better boss and teacher.

You have Morito next door, but have you ever been tempted to open another Moro elsewhere in London?
Moro is quite a big machine and it's a lot of work. We still feel stimulated at work and Morito has been a good addition to what we have been doing. It's important to us to keep the attention to detail. We have branched out to do events and we are just finishing the Morito cookbook, which is coming out in May next year, so it's busy!

✤ Moro, 34-36 Exmouth Market EC1R 4QE; 020 7833 8336; moro.co.uk (look out for Morito's Seafood Festival running 24 September-6 October)

Moro's popular Beetroot Borani

THE GASTROPUB PROFESSIONALS

Enjoyed a fabulous pub meal in Islington recently? Well it's a good chance Scott Hunter and Maria Larsen are behind it. They chat to Mark Kebble as their latest venture, Smokehouse, opens its doors

Maria Larsen and Scott Hunter

What spurred you on to go into business together?
Maria: I never had any dreams of running my own company, it was always Scott's dream to have his own pub or restaurant. I knew if we didn't work together, we would never see each other! We had worked together before we were a couple and we had a great working relationship.

Why the gastropub scene?
Scott: I was working in a high profile cocktail bar when I started putting together my business plan. I originally wanted to do cocktails and Mediterranean small plates in the West End and there was a sudden splurge of exactly that so I went back to the drawing board! I became disillusioned with how pretentious a lot of restaurants and bars had become and started going to the pub for a drink instead. I fell in love with how down to earth and versatile they are. The atmosphere in a well run, cosy pub cannot be replicated in any bar or restaurant no matter how hard you try!

The bar area at Smokehouse

Your first launch was The Princess of Shoreditch. How were things at the beginning?
Maria: Probably the same as most new businesses. We took on The Princess with not even a penny to spare and did almost everything ourselves. We started trading the same day we took the pub over as we needed the money. Scott would clean the toilets and work the bar for a lunch and evening service while I worked the floor. In between services we put in place all the systems we still use today. The first year was tough, the first few months especially, but we doubled our sales. We were able to pull enough money together to do a front of house refurb and a small remodeling of the kitchen. We were closed for a month and re-opened as The Princess of Shoreditch. The first few weeks were tough – we had gone from pub to 'gastro' and a lot of people did not like it. But we received some favourable reviews and won 'Best New Gastropub' in Time Out's Eating and Drinking Awards 2010 and haven't really looked back since.

All your venues – The Lady Ottoline, The Pig & Butcher in addition to The Princess of Shoreditch – are around this area. Why here?
Maria: We currently live in Shoreditch and are moving to Islington. It's the part of town we like most. We try to be in each pub at least once every day and if they were more spread out that would be impossible.

What can you tell me about your latest launch, Smokehouse?

Smokehouse's short rib Bourguignon

Scott: The aim for Smokehouse is to create a great neighbourhood pub with a difference. It's a great space – we've transformed inside with a wall of beer (over 20 on tap) and made the place feel as welcoming as possible. In winter we will have two log fires, and for the summer we've created a lovely country garden complete with jasmine and herbs. We've teamed up with Neil Rankin – one of London's most exciting chefs – to put together a really interesting and fairly unique menu.

What can you tell us about that?
Scott: I think people may be surprised at first by what Smokehouse is. A lot of people are going to think 'Neil Rankin, so it'll probably be a bit Pitt Cue-ish' – it's very un Pitt Cue-ish in fact! Neil has a lot of strings to his bow. The menu has influences from all over the world with a lot of traditional cooking techniques.

✤ Smokehouse, 63-69 Canonbury Road N1 2DG; 020 7354 1144; smokehouseislington.co.uk

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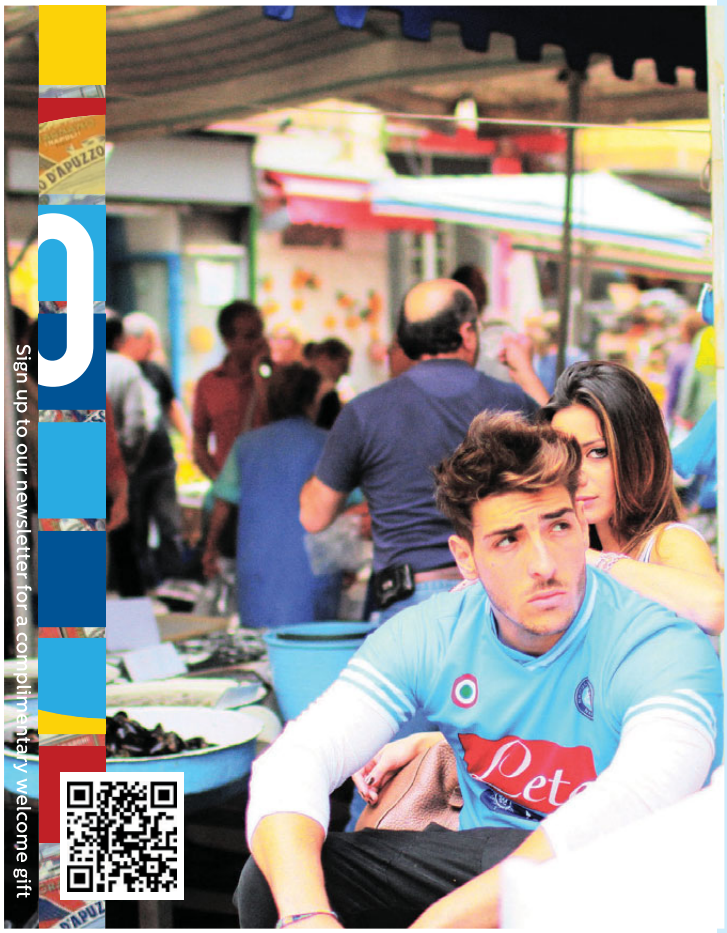

It's a Napoli thing

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In my kitchen

Mark Sargeant, Head Chef, Great Northern Hotel

What was the attraction of working at the Great Northern Hotel?
Apart from it being a beautiful hotel with a stunning bar and restaurant, the opportunity to come back to London for me was fantastic.

What do you make of the foodie scene here?
It's amazing really. King's Cross has long been a pretty rough area and now it's full of new buildings and fantastic restaurants. It's the new centre of London for me.

You will be working across Plum + Spilt Milk, GHN Bar and KIOSK at the hotel. How have you approached the menus?
I have a much simpler style of food now and came up with menus that were fitting of the area, the rooms and what I think the clientele will be. Simple, timeless and classic.

✤ Great Northern Hotel, King's St Pancras N1C 4TB; 020 3388 0800; GNHLondon.com

Plum + Spilt Milk is one of three venues Mark Sargeant is overseeing the menus for

Gourmet NEWS

IF YOU NEED REMINDING

Chocolate Week returns from 14-20 October, which will promote fine flavour chocolate and artisan chocolatiers.

Majestic makeover

The Marquess Tavern is a real pub, loved by locals and visitors alike. Now they have had a makeover and rustled up a new menu that offers plenty of delicious and hearty dishes. We've already experienced the wild boar scotch egg, which was fantastic, and the range of specialty craft beers aren't bad either.

✤ 32 Canonbury Street N1 2TB; 020 3437 0630

Euphoric feeling

Euphorium Bakery have already stolen a march down Upper Street with two very popular branches, and are now launching a new site in Threadneedle Street. The food and drink here will be the same delicious, fresh fare served at their Upper Street locations, with everything made fresh daily.

✤ 60 Threadneedle Street EC2R 8HP; euphoriumbakery.com

TOM'S CHOICE

SPICE OF LIFE

'India is home to one of the most thrilling, diverse and downright magnificent cuisines in the world. But like all great culinary cultures, it is a wonderful collection of diverse regional cuisines.' Here are our top 3:

Dishoom
This Shoreditch favourite is based on the Persian owned cafes of Bombay – and their food is very good indeed. They pride themselves on their 'welcome all' approach – from businessmen to students, who all come together to experience heritage and tradition and a fabulous all-day menu.

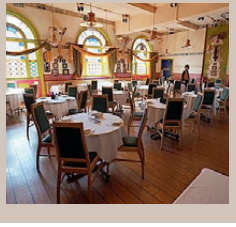
✤ 7 Boundary Street E2 7JE; 020 7420 9324

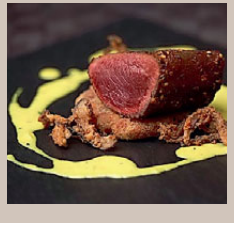
Café Spice Namaste
A culinary institution, Café Spice Namaste is Cyrus and Pervin Todiwala's celebrated landmark Indian restaurant. Their extensive menus offer a contemporary twist on traditional dishes from Goa, North India, Hyderabad and Kashmir, using only the best local produce where possible.

✤ 16 Prescot Square E1 8AZ; 020 7488 9242

The Cinnamon Kitchen
When it comes to high end Indian food, not many are better than Vivek Singh. Like another of the greats, Atul Kochhar, he takes traditional recipes and brings them into the 21st century. The Cinnamon Kitchen was opened in 2001 on the back of the success of The Cinnamon Club.

✤ 9 Devonshire Square EC2M 4YL; 020 7626 5000





Fishy business

Des McDonald's first solo venture is on to a winner, says a reminiscing Mark Kebble as he heads down The Fish & Chip Shop

You know when a part of town is thriving when AA Gill writes two four-star reviews a couple of weeks apart. Firstly there was Grain in King's Cross, followed by a lunch-time stop at The Fish & Chip Shop, newly opened on Upper Street. The message is getting across: on this Thursday evening when my guest and I visited, it was absolutely rammed.

The brainchild of former Caprice Holdings CEO Des McDonald – our cover star of two issues ago – prior to opening he told us that he wasn't reinventing the wheel and to expect proper fish and chips. He wasn't leading us down a merry path: the menu has all the old favourites, from chip butty and curry sauce, to a selection of different sustainably sourced fish in batter. The setting, too, is wonderfully old fashioned in feel, with leather seated booths placed alongside bar areas with stools.

The shrimp were delightfully plump offerings in a perfectly rendered mac 'n' cheese

Although not essentially a starter, I couldn't resist the chip butty and it was comfort food personified, crispy chips with sauce oozing out. My guest's Isle of Man crab on toast with avocado was a little more refined, but no less impressive and was quickly devoured.

The mains caused a mini row between us – we both wanted the shrimp mac 'n' cheese – but I won out, with a deal struck to partly share (she plumped for the scampi in the end). The shrimp was worth fighting for, delightfully plump offerings in a perfectly rendered mac 'n' cheese. That coupled with the lusty pieces of scampi proved too much for us both to polish off.

Don't go expecting a Caprice Holdings-style restaurant here. This a real laid-back joint that's very welcoming, a wonderful addition to our foodie scene.

✤ 189 Upper Street, N1 1RQ; 020 3227 0979

Make it at home

Fish pie Serves: 6

Ingredients

200g sliced shallots
5g fennel seeds
20g thyme; 1 bay leaf
3g white peppercorns
300g unsalted butter
250ml white cooking wine
500ml fish stock
400ml double cream
100g plain flour
1.5kg Maris piper potatoes; Salt and pepper
100ml whole milk
300g cod (skinned, boned and cubed)
300g Pollock (skinned, boned and cubed)
300g Salmon (skinned, boned and cubed)
20g chopped dill
20g chopped tarragon
20g chopped flat parsley
Juice of 1 lemon
50g grated parmesan cheese; 200g brioche (for breadcrumbs)

To make the sauce:

1. Take the sliced shallots, fennel seeds, thyme, peppercorns and bay leaf and place in a large pan on a medium heat. Fry in a little butter until the shallots are soft and starting to colour. Stir every few minutes.
2. Once the shallots are starting to colour, add the wine and reduce until almost all liquid has evaporated.
3. Add the fish stock and reduce by half, then add the double cream and simmer gently for around 20 minutes.
4. Make a roux using 100g of butter and 100g of plain flour. Melt the butter down and stir in the flour to make a paste. Once the sauce has been simmering for a good 20 minutes, slowly incorporate the roux to thicken the sauce (it needs to be fairly thick).
5. Leave the sauce on a low heat – it needs to simmer to cook out the flour.

To make the potatoes:

1. While the sauce is cooking, start to make the mashed potatoes for the topping. Take the potatoes and boil in salted water until soft all the way through.
2. Heat up the milk and add this to the mashed potatoes. Season with salt and pepper.

To make the pie:

1. Take a pie dish and lay out the cubed fish (around 3-4cm thick) in the dish.
2. Take the sauce and add in all the chopped herbs (dill, tarragon and parsley), lemon juice, and salt and pepper to taste.
3. Pour the sauce over the fish and layer the mash on top. Bake in a preheated oven for 25-30 minutes.
4. Once the pie is piping hot all the way through, take the grated parmesan and brioche breadcrumbs and layer on the top of the pie. Brown it off under the grill.
5. Allow to rest slightly for 2-3 minutes and serve.

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FILM

Thor: The Dark World

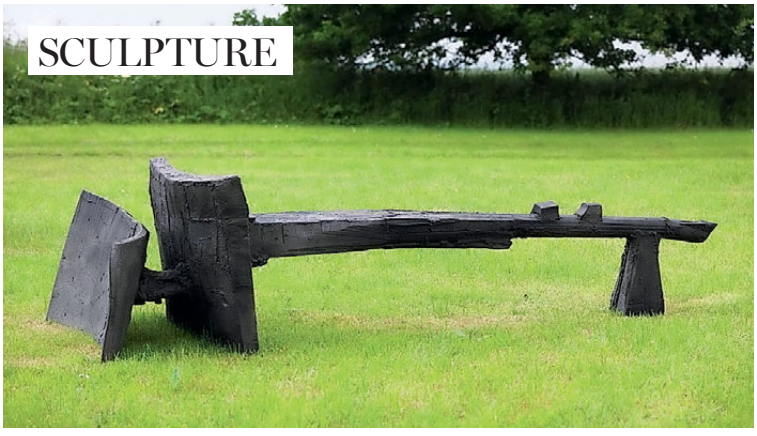
The juggernaut that is Marvel Comics rolls on with the return of Thor, which in turn will keep the story thread building towards the sequel to the hugely successful *Avengers Assemble*. It's one year since the events of that superhero smash up and Thor (Chris Hemsworth) faces a battle to save the Nine Realms from a mysterious enemy older than the universe itself. Christopher Eccleston joins the cast as the deadly Malekith, who is out for revenge, and his actions see Thor forced into an uneasy truce with half brother Loki, imprisoned at the end of *Avengers Assemble*. Marvel can't do no wrong at present and expect more action and plenty of quips as we return to the world of Asgard.

✤ See it from 30 October at Vue Cinemas, 36 Parkfield Street N1 0PS; 0871 224 0240; myvue.com

The Angel resident LOVES

Local LIFE

SCULPTURE



Geoffrey Clarke

This exhibition, entitled *A Decade of Change*, will explore a crucial period in Geoffrey Clarke's impressive oeuvre: from 1955-1965. This decade saw his style develop through an intense exploration of new materials, and in particular the groundbreaking use of polystyrene and cast aluminium in his work. A range of prints, silvers and stained glass pieces will also be included in the exhibition at Pangolin London, running until 26 October.

✤ 90 York Way N1 9AG; 020 7520 1480; pangolinlondon.com

THEATRE

Photo: Rob Kennedy

PEOPLE SHOW 121

The UK's longest-running experimental theatre group, People Show, returns to London with its 121st production. Funny, frightening and ferocious, *People Show 121: The Detective Show* arrives at the Old Red Lion from 15 October fresh from a run at San Francisco's Southside Theatre. Someone has been murdered but there's no body, no weapon and no motive. There is a suspect who says he's innocent but can only remember three things: he is a compulsive gambler, he's in love with an Agatha Christie tour guide, and he thinks he might be a character in a detective novel. Fictional and real lives merge and riddles are solved – but the case files remain open.

✤ 418 St John Street EC1V 4NJ; 0844 412 4307; oldredliontheatre.co.uk

WIN!

The Young at Heart Show – running at Alexandra Palace from 5-6 October – is devoted to modern, active over 50s. Hosted by LBC's Nick Ferrari, you'll be able to enjoy 30 free seminars and 200 exhibitors. Win free tickets at youngatheartshow.com

EVENT

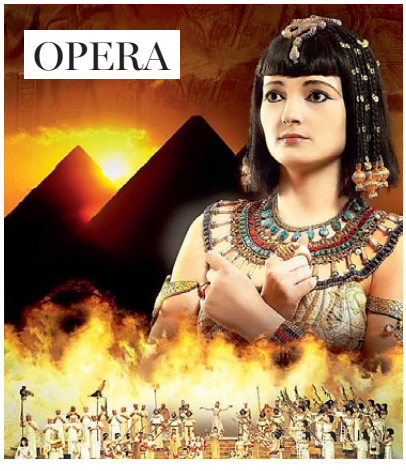
Work courtesy of Dan Hillier

Victoriana: The Art of Revival

From the macabre to the quaint, the sensational to the surreal, *Victoriana: The Art of Revival* is the first ever exhibition in the UK to offer a major retrospective of Victorian revivalism in all its guises. Featuring graphic design, film, photography, ceramics, taxidermy, furniture, textiles and fine art, this fascinating multi-media, multi-sensory show on now until 8 December at the Guildhall Art Gallery explores the work of contemporary artists who have been inspired by the 19th century and offers an intriguing perspective into the on-going legacy of our Victorian forebears. Look around you and you will see the Victorian era's legacy at every turn, from architecture and invention to fashion, fiction and film. Dig deeper and you enter the Victorian underbelly, where art, ideas and literature were often dark and unsettling. This assorted medley of inspirations has fired the imagination of artists ever since.

✤ Guildhall Yard EC2V 5AR; 020 7332 3700; cityoflondon.gov.uk/Victoriana

OPERA



Aida

Jealousy, revenge, hopeless romance and a breathtaking wall of fire brings epic opera Aida to life in award-winning opera producer Ellen Kent's new tour. Heading to the perfect venue for such a show, the Hackney Empire on 9 October, pyrotechnic displays and lighting effects help bring Kent's love of large scale productions to the local stage, complete with stunning scenery depicting the splendour and mystery of ancient Egypt.

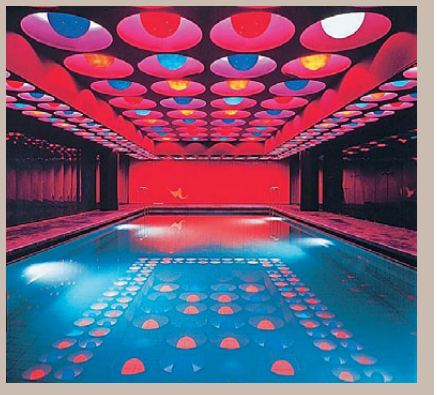
✤ 291 Mare Street E8 1EJ; 020 8985 2424; hackneyempire.co.uk

ART

3 of the best... for the artistic community

1 *The Other Art Fair*, from 17-20 October, returns for a fifth time to the Old Truman Brewery. *The Other Art Fair* is the UK's largest artist-led fair, attracting thousands of art buyers, collectors, journalists and gallerists from across London. It is unique in its approach of using a selection committee of industry experts to handpick 100 of the most exciting unrepresented artists from the UK and beyond.

✤ See more at theotherartfair.com



2 Brash, colourful and playful, Pop Art (above) was a movement that signalled a radical change of direction in the post-war period. From the late 1950s to the early 1970s, Pop was characterised by an intense dialogue between the fields of design and art. *Pop Art Design* is the first comprehensive exhibition to explore the origins, motives and methods of this exchange, opening at Barbican Art Gallery on 22 October.

✤ Silk Street EC2Y 8DS; 0845 120 7550; barbican.org.uk

3 Until 12 October, Flowers Gallery will be showcasing the work of Simon Roberts. He has spent three years creating *Pierdom*, a comprehensive survey of Britain's piers. *Pierdom* addresses the historical significance of these architectural structures placed in comparison with their modern interpretation and functionality.

✤ 82 Kingsland Road E2 8DP; 020 7920 7777

Photo: Jake Walters

Hofesh Shechter

Sun is the hotly anticipated new production from Hofesh Shechter, opening at Sadler's Wells on 30 October. From the darkness of his emotive and often angry world emerges a bright white light dancing out of the smoke and chaos. Shechter is acclaimed for his atmospheric music scores and several of the long-standing members of his band have played on the eclectic electronic soundtrack for Sun, with the result being a must-see production.

✤ Rosebery Avenue EC1R 4TN; 0844 4124300; sadlerswells.com

BOOK NOW FOR NOVEMBER

Opening on 8 November, Georgians Revealed: Life, Style and the Making of Modern Britain at the British Library uncovers the reality of life in Georgian Britain. From beautifully furnished homes to raucous gambling dens, from celebrity obsessions to gin addictions, this dazzling exhibition will bring to life the trials and triumphs of the ordinary people who made modern Britain. Events include Heston Blumenthal exploring the lasting impact made during the Georgian era on the culinary history of Britain, and Vice and Virtue, an evening of decadent pleasure and entertainment.

✤ 96 Euston Road NW1 2DB; 01937 546546; bl.uk

From 6-24 November, the Barbican celebrates English composer Benjamin Britten's centenary with a two-week Barbican Britten festival. Timed to coincide with the composer's 100th birthday, the festival takes a fresh and eclectic look at Britten from a range of perspectives, including concerts, dance, opera, a multimedia staging of Curlew River, lectures, readings from Britten's letters and diaries, films and talks. At the heart of the celebration is the three day Illuminating Britten (6-8 November), a lively exploration of the composer's importance today.

✤ Silk Street EC2Y 8DS; 0845 120 7550; barbican.org.uk

For centuries Europeans were dazzled by the legend of a lost city of gold in South America. The truth behind the myth is even more fascinating. El Dorado – literally meaning 'the golden one' – actually refers to the ritual that took place at Lake Guatavita, near modern Bogotá. The newly elected leader, covered in powdered gold, dived into the lake and emerged as the new chief of the Muisca people who lived in the central highlands of present day Colombia's Eastern Range. The stunning exhibition, Beyond El Dorado: power and gold in ancient Colombia, runs until the New Year at the British Museum and displays some of the fascinating objects excavated from the lake in the early 20th century.

✤ Great Russell Street WC1B 3DG; 020 7323 8181; britishmuseum.org

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www.forest.org.uk
info@forest.org.uk
020 8520 1744

Embracing the seasons

LOCAL LUXE

If you want to brighten up the impending darker days, then get your children kitted out in the latest from Oilily. Their new A/W13 range features a host of wonderful colours in a vast range of styles, from cute hats and scarves, to jackets that are comfort personified, as shown in the image above.

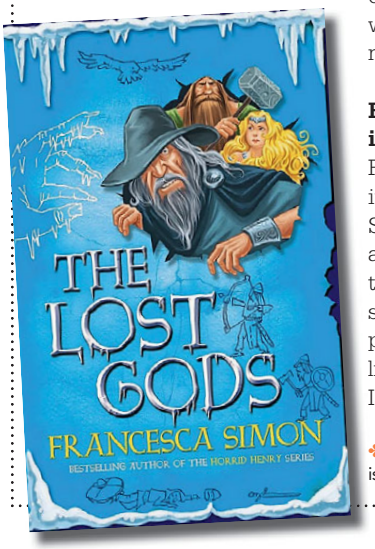
✤ See more at oililyshop.com/en

Five minutes with...

FRANCESCA SIMON, author of the Horrid Henry series

Photo: Geraint Lewis

What can you tell us about The Lost Gods?
It's a comedy epic about fame and celebrity and religion, involving the Norse gods on Earth. My story is set in modern Britain, but in a world where Christianity never existed, so people still worship the Viking gods. The gods have recovered their youth, but not their worshippers, and come down to Earth to regain their followers. Meanwhile, the Frost Giants are threatening to invade…



Was writing The Lost Gods a nice break from Horrid Henry?
Fantastic. I've loved the challenge of writing for older children and the chance to create a completely different world, which touches on so many of my interests.

How long have you lived in Islington?
For over 20 years. I do love it: there are great places like Steve Hatt's fishmongers and Ottolenghi; being able to walk to a cinema; and my son went to a lovely local primary school. I also value living close to North Library. Islington has terrific libraries.

✤ The Lost Gods by Francesca Simon is out now, priced at £9.99 (hardback)

Just Juniors

EDITOR'S CHOICE HALLOWEEN FUN

North London charity Noah's Ark unveil their Halloween Howler event taking place at Capel Manor Gardens on 27 October. Expect pumpkin carving, traditional craft activities, face painting, and ghostly stories.

✤ Bullsmoor Lane EN1 4RQ; noahsarkhospice.org.uk

Spend Halloween at London Zoo from 26 October-3 November, where you can enjoy spooky storytelling, a host of activities and the chance to get up close with some mysterious owls. Also look out for their enrichment-making workshops.

✤ See more at zsl.org/zsl-london-zoo/

Listen out for the LSO Discovery Concert entitled Witches! on 27 October. Join presenter Rachel Leach as she guides you through a spine-tingling, spooky programme, including Berlioz's Symphonie fantastique and Saint-Saëns' Danse Macabre.

✤ For tickets call the Barbican box office on 020 7638 8891

Bucking the trend

Islington is celebrating improved GCSE results for the sixth year running, with 63% of students across the borough gaining five or more A*-C grades. The week prior to the GCSE results being announced, students at Islington Sixth Form Consortium achieved fantastic A level results, with a pass rate this year of 99.1%.

Something to smile about...

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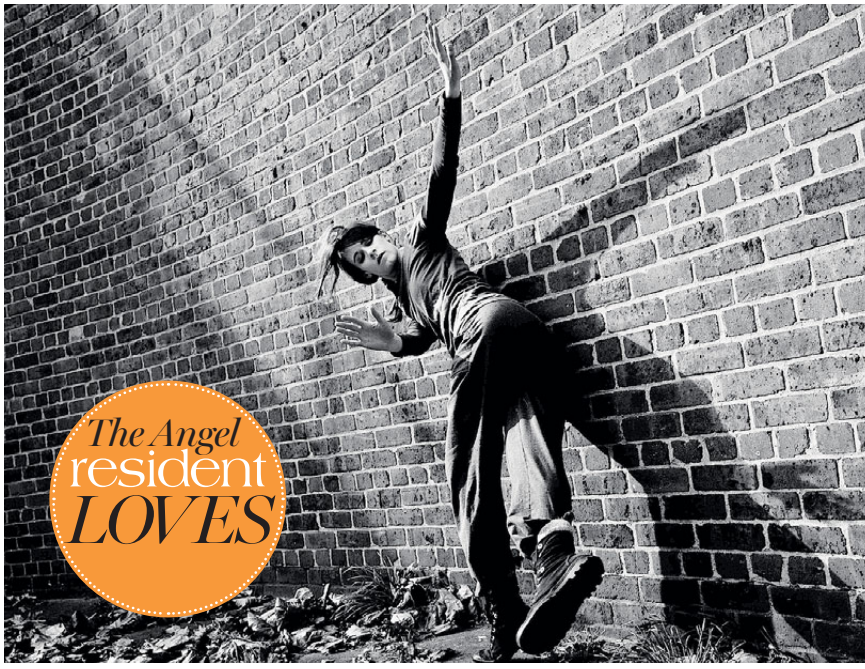
BDA goodpractice member

Gym of the month

Go Go Yoga

This ingenious studio opened its doors on 22 August and, with 15 teachers, is a space designed on sustainability principles that will be open from 6.30am-8.30pm every day. 'The concept is that the studio should be open as much as possible so that people can drop in and find a class or visit to meet others in a way that fits around a working day,' says founder Annie Sherburne. 'I wanted to work with the community in a very collaborative way. The studio is a place for people to access yoga, art, drama and textiles classes initially in an affordable way that develops people's skills and is a place to learn and knowledge share, and in many ways to "remake" the body.' Annie teaches Vinyasa Flow under Ashtanga principles, and you can also expect dynamic yoga (alongside acting classes), Hatha yoga, circuit training class, Bums & Tums workouts, Bhakti class and even a food for detox class.

✤ 59 Columbia Road E2 7RG; 07900 473526; gogoyoga.co.uk



Reasons to smile

Charles Landau dental surgery is celebrating moving to fresh new premises. Their award-winning practice has been established for 30 years and they have great pride in the fact they have provided their patients with a continuity of care for over a quarter of a century. They offer a range of treatments for dental conditions, from tooth decay to halitosis, and also cover everything from cosmetic dentistry to root canal treatment.

✤ 6 Prebend Street N1 8PT; charleslandau.co.uk

Health & fitness NEWS

To the Fore

The latest Fore Runner Evo footwear is out now, priced at £100. They are lightweight, low profile minimal running shoes with a close to the ground feel. The shoes have a breathable, wicking mesh and synthetic leather that provides upper protection and durability. For safety, they also have a reflective webbing and heel for high visibility.

✤ patagonia.com

Be aware

October marks the return of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which will feature exclusive pink products that will help raise vital funding to continue Breakthrough's life-saving work. This Marks & Spencer Woman Medium Impact Sports Bra, RRP £19.50, caught our eye, with a 10% donation going towards Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

✤ See more products at breakthrough.org.uk

3 healthy recipes for Chocolate Week

The combination of **Sweet Eve strawberries** and white chocolate is the perfect mix of naughty and nice in these wonderful muffins.

Chocolate Week in October provides the perfect excuse to drizzle **Pink Lady apples** in chocolate, ideal for the lunch box.

Beetroot & Chocolate Cake offers deliciously moist chocolate cake – thanks to the beetroot – that can be enjoyed by all the family.

ASK THE EXPERT

Richard Wall, Personal Trainer and Nutritional Advisor

Are you lacking some motivation in your life? What about trying out a boxing class to release some stress, tone and find new friends. The greatest thing about boxing compared to many gym activities is that it will get you out of your comfort zone. After a session you will feel completely refreshed and ready to accomplish new things. Combined with a healthy diet, you will also lose some pounds and improve your self-confidence.

✤ Find out more at fitnessize.co.uk

Need for speed

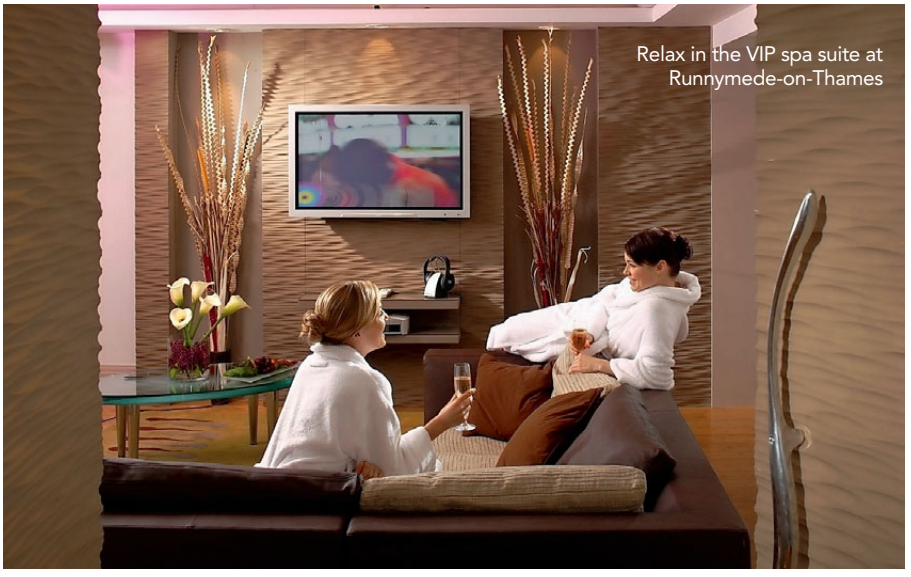
Catherine McCabe takes to the driver's seat for the first time and enjoys a girl's weekend with a difference (but still finds the time to be pampered)

Being unable to drive in your mid twenties is a little like not being able to roll your tongue. You watch others do it with ease, and after many embarrassing attempts – it still seems impossible. But sometimes, it's better to tackle these niggling pitfalls head on. And so I found myself at Mercedes Benz World – sitting in the driver's seat of a car that cost more than my own house on a race track, narrowly ducking the carefully placed orange cones whilst my driving instructor's foot hovered over the break.

This baptism by fire was part of a new package devised by Runnymede-on-Thames hotel and Mercedes Benz World, who are offering a girl's weekend with a difference. Groups are invited to burn rubber on the tracks at 100mph, or take to the wheel of a 4x4 for an off-roading experience, navigating the wheels at 45 degrees through

✤ Got the Benz
Located on the site of the historic Brooklands race circuit, Mercedes Benz World showcases the best of the Mercedes brand, tracing its motoring history with a museum filled with models old and new, and making a fascinating visit for car fans young and old. Children need not wait until the age of 17 to have a go too – as long as they can reach the pedals, children more than 1.5m tall are allowed to drive under the guidance of a professional instructor for their first taste of life behind the wheel.

Experience off-road driving at Mercedes Benz World


Relax in the VIP spa suite at Runnymede-on-Thames

I took more of a Noddy than Bear Grylls approach; tentatively winding through the cushioned course at a heart stopping 25mph

rocky terrains, or up a flight of concrete steps. I took more of a Noddy than Bear Grylls approach; tentatively winding through the cushioned course at a heart stopping 25mph. My instructor – who just so happened to be a retired ballerina – led what must have been a torturous half hour with a saintly patience.

After much Mercedes stalling, we returned to Runnymede-on-Thames, a family owned hotel on the outskirts of Surrey that makes the most of its riverside location with floor to ceiling glass windows for the best view. Hidden in every corner, you'll find their signature rubber ducks, a welcome reminder that however elegant Runnymede-on-Thames may look, they never take themselves too seriously. But the real attraction here is the hotel spa – an ideal antidote to the post-track jitters. Proud owner of five bubbles in the Good Spa Guide, it is home to a whirlpool bath, saunas, eucalyptus steam room and, most importantly, a VIP relaxation suite for private groups. In this secret sanctuary, we were free to swan about in our robes, sipping champagne, and sampling brownies and strawberries, whilst we waited for our treatments. The full-hour body massage was absolute bliss, made all the more relaxing by having a space to wind down in just seconds away.

It was the perfect contrast to an adrenaline fuelled afternoon behind the wheel. The rest and recovery continued as I explored my room before dinner – spacious with panoramic views of the Thames, and soft, doughy bed to boot. The White Company products in the bathroom were a welcome bonus.

Dinner at The Lock Bar & Kitchen was of a surprisingly high standard. Don't be fooled by the simple lounge-style décor – the food here is as good as you'd find in any North London restaurant. The menu varies with the seasons, sourcing fresh, local ingredients. Expect large portions of cod and homemade chips, fresh soda bread and a cow-sized Surrey Farm rib-eye steak.

What's surprising about Runnymede-on-Thames is the child-friendly atmosphere, from special teen-treatments at the hotel spa to the child-menus. It doesn't hurt that Thorpe Park is five minute's drive away, not to mention Mercedes Benz World.

But, there's no harm in leaving the kids at home, and if you're looking for a girl's only weekend with a little more oomph, then strap on your driving gloves, and show them how it's done.

✤ The Ultimate Drive Experience – from £330 for one hour track driving, or 30 mins track and 30 mins off-road driving for one adult, followed by a three course dinner in the Lock Bar & Kitchen, overnight accommodation in a double room and a full English breakfast in Leftbank restaurant the next morning for two. Half-day group spa experience in the private spa suite from £125 pp (for four to eight people). mercedes-benz.co.uk; therunnymede.co.uk or call 01784 220960

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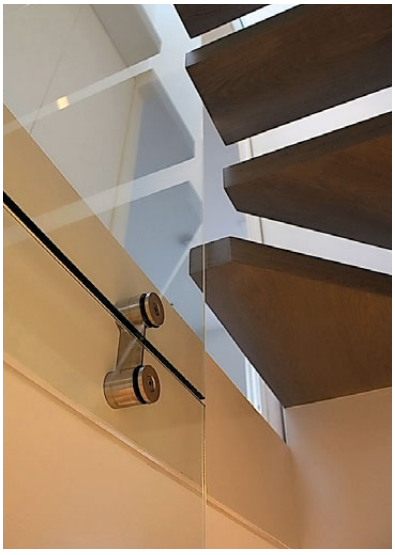

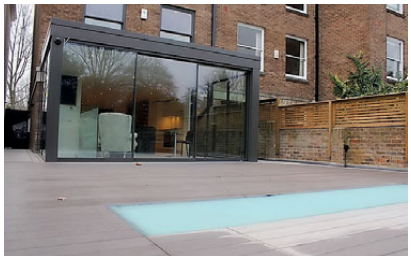

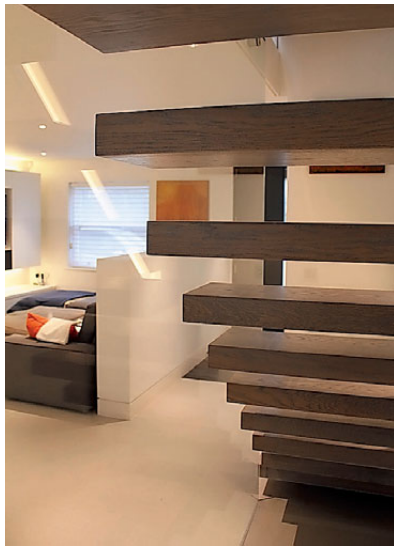

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Home from home

Jenny Hughes' Home & Pantry on Camden Passage is already a firm favourite – and now she has launched online. We find out what her burning ambitions are

You only launched Home & Pantry on Camden Passage two years ago. How have things gone in that time?
The response has been amazing. After years of clinical modern interiors there has been a move back towards the natural rustic look and vintage shabby chic styles. By embracing these trends and sourcing unique furnishings from all over the world, we quickly developed a following with local and international shoppers.

Does launching your own online store suggest how quickly you've grown?
The plan really was to open a second store first, but we were inundated with requests to send products all over the world and knew then that the next step would have to be an online store. We had been collecting customer emails since we opened, so when we launched in June we had high volumes of traffic from day one and were getting orders as far afield as New York, Canada, Russia and India.

Can you sum up the online store?
A lot of time went into designing homeandpantry.com, which aims to replicate the type of shopping experience you would have at our store. It was important that we created a site that represented our brand with great design, but that was also easy to use.

Can you explain what extras, such as the Get Inspired section, we will find on there?
Embracing the growth of social media trends like Twitter and Pinterest, we created a unique element in our site through a social pin board on our 'Get Inspired' section. This page aims to engage with customers through pinning interior trends, home styling & DIY videos, with top lifestyle, food and interior blogs.

Why do you feel confident to take on bigger retailers like notonthehighstreet.com?
Notonthehighstreet.com launched in 2006 and has grown to be a multi-million pound business in a short time. Like us they started from the kitchen table and follow a business philosophy of sourcing unique products and making it enjoyable for the customer to browse and buy. The great thing about online is that the market is huge, so if you have the right ideas and determination then there is plenty of room for many to succeed.

> The online market is huge, so if you have the right ideas and determination, there's room to succeed

Tell us about the products you sell and where they come from?
We travel a lot, sourcing products mainly from France, Belgium, Morocco, India, the UK and Ireland. We have a lot of suppliers for such a new business, but we do this in order to constantly have a great selection of bespoke products coming in, wanting the customer to find new things.

Will the website detract in any way from what you do at the N1 shop?
This was a concern, but in fact the opposite has happened. People are now seeing things online and are coming to the store to see them in the flesh. They love the site and are wanting to see the store behind it.

✤ Visit the website at homeandpantry.com

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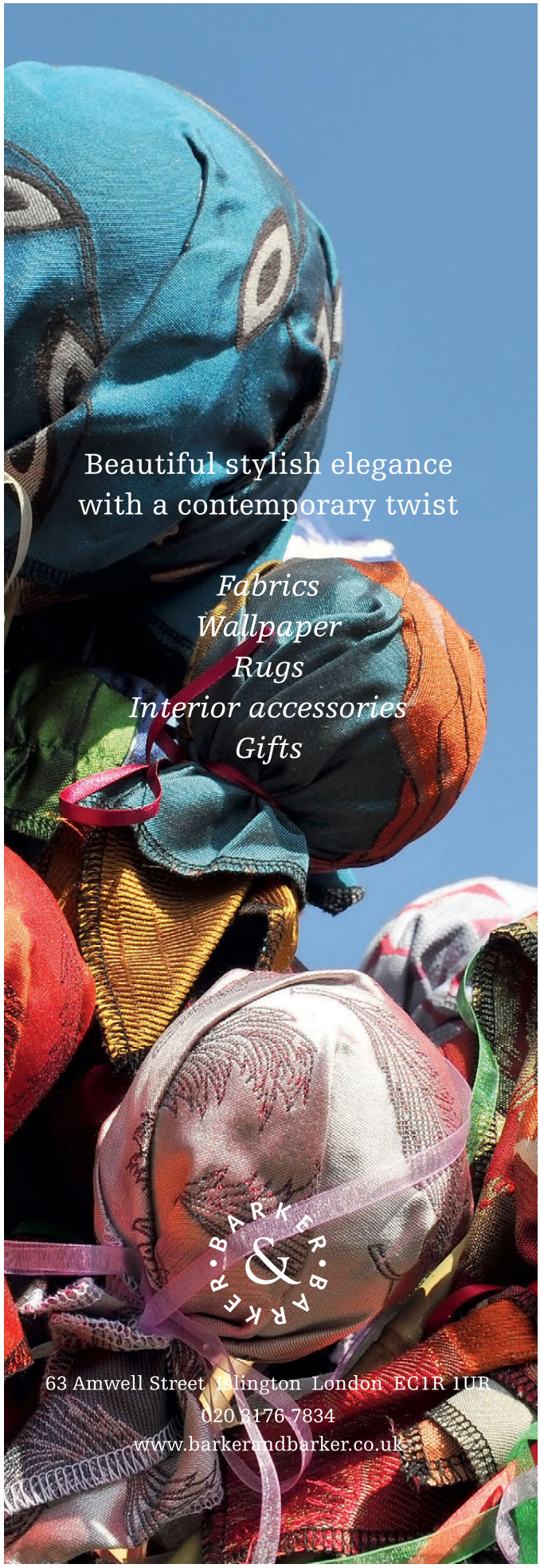
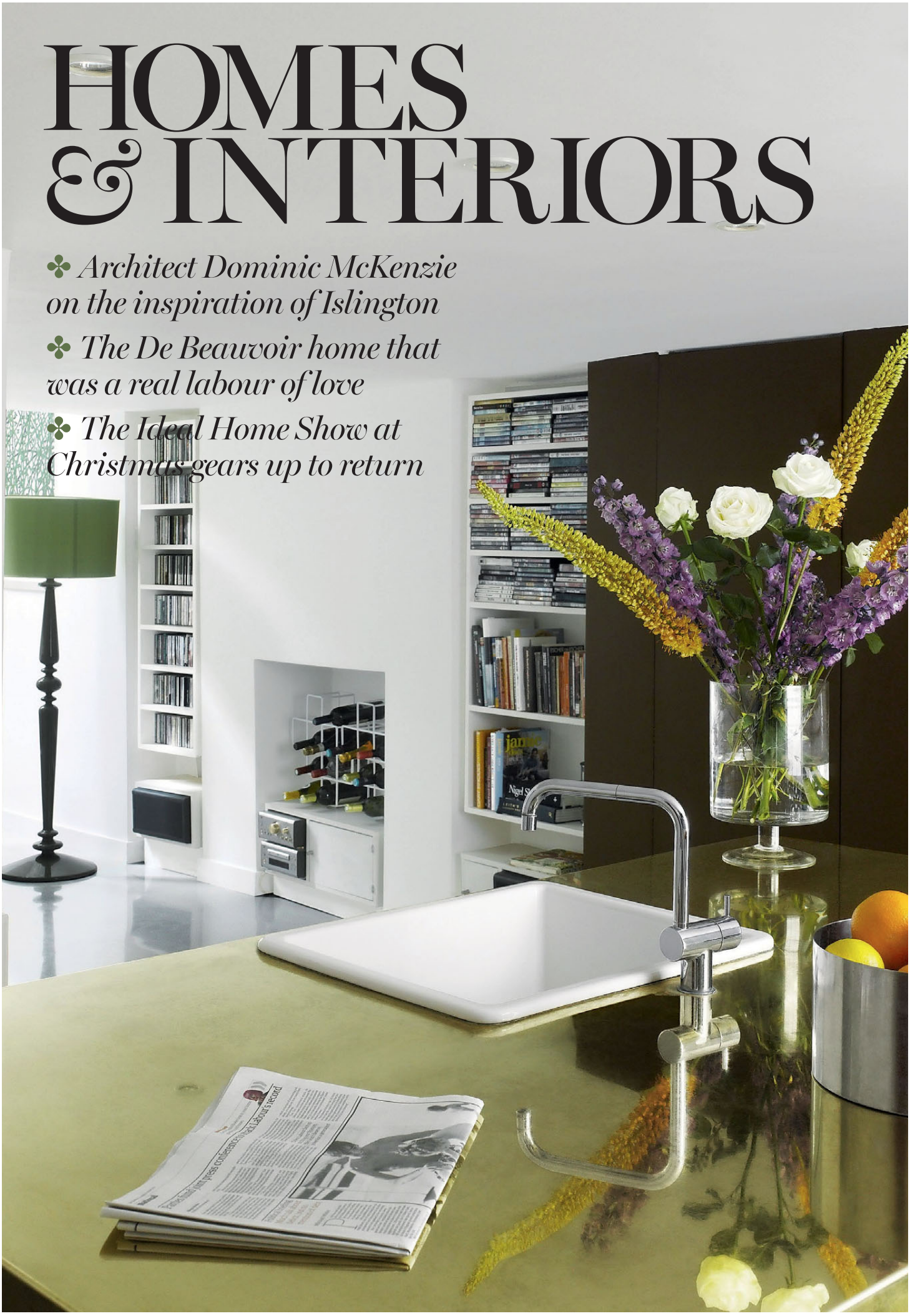


HOMES & INTERIORS

- *Architect Dominic McKenzie on the inspiration of Islington*
- *The De Beauvoir home that was a real labour of love*
- *The Ideal Home Show at Christmas gears up to return*



Angel resident directory

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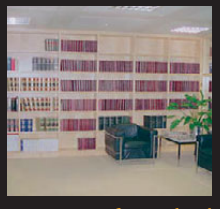

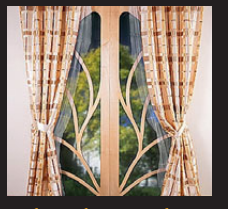

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Tales of the unexpected

Dominic McKenzie likes his architectural designs to create a feeling of uniqueness, and Mark Kebble finds out it all begins at home

Never has the old adage 'put your money where your mouth is' been more relevant than when talking to Dominic McKenzie. I mention to him that one particular property on his website caught my eye, not realising the personal connection. 'That's the house I live in on Cloudesley Road,' he says proudly, 'which is a traditional Georgian terrace house from around 1830. Its problem when I moved in was the small size and lack of hierarchy of rooms. I wanted to create a sense of generosity and space to the ground floor living rooms and did so through the addition of a double height rear extension.'

Dominic McKenzie Architects has been in existence since 2011 and was launched by the Islington local after a stint at Alison Brooks Architects. In 2008, an occasion Dominic describes as 'massive', he was part of a Stirling Prize winning design. 'I was Project Manager for ABA's portion of the Accordia, a modern housing development in Cambridge,' he explains. 'Prior to Accordia winning, the Stirling Prize had typically gone to a one-off iconic building. For a "lowly" housing project to win was unheard of.'

After seven years at ABA, he struck out alone. 'My ambitions were – and are – to produce beautiful, interesting and imaginative work,' he says on his architectural practice. 'I am not interested in reproducing the same standard solution for each project – I want to work with each client to produce a unique and beautiful project.'

He describes his style as 'contemporary, creative, possibly theatrical, with something surprising or unexpected', and he thrives when working on properties in the area he has called home for over a decade now. 'Islington properties were often pretty basically constructed, but they still look great nearly 200 years after when they were built.'

✤ Visit dominicmckenzie.co.uk to see further examples of his past projects

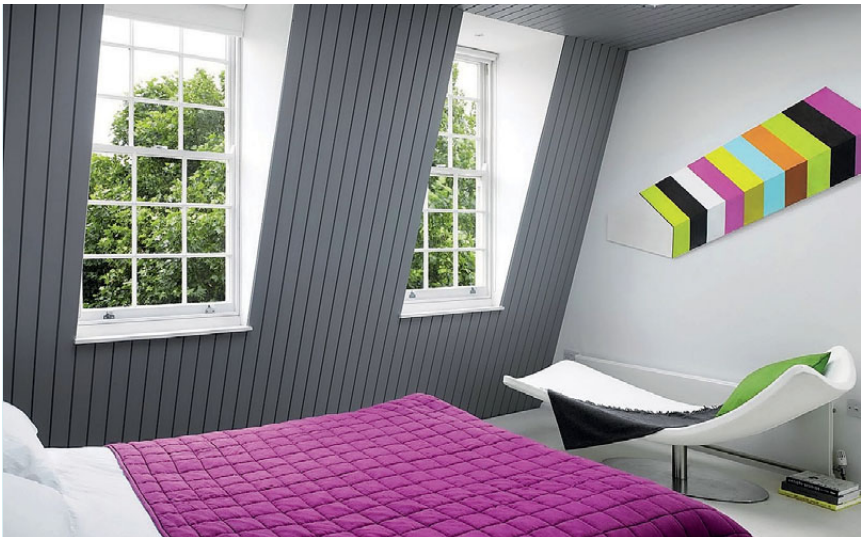
Dominic McKenzie

Drawing you in

✤ What's great about living on Cloudesley Road?
Islington has a fantastic historic urban fabric – the streets and squares around Barnsbury, Canonbury, Highbury and De Beauvoir are some of the most beautiful places to live.

✤ Where are your favourite haunts?
I find a lot of receipts from The Crown pub in my pockets! Camden Passage, Elk in the Woods, Kipferl, Screen on the Green, Isarn, twentytwentyone, The Albion…

The Cloudesley Road project pictured on this page, photographed by Will Pryce



Contemporary forms reveal and celebrate the original Victorian house, as seen here in the oak boarding

Architect's dream

When Jez and Tonja Scott bought this home in De Beauvoir a decade ago, little could they have imagined the stunning revamp they conjured up

Never have we seen a property that evokes a sense of free flowing. Looking at the shape – both internally and externally – of this four bedroom home in De Beauvoir Road, N1, surfaces and spaces dip, soar and weave through the home. It is fabulous taking every little design aspect in.

Perhaps it is not a surprise, therefore, that two architects lived in this property. Jez and Tonja Scott run Scott Architects, based in Duncan Terrace, but a decade ago were just in the process of buying this home. 'We lived there up until the end of 2009,' explains Jez. 'We originally received planning permission for carrying out the project in 2007, but we didn't start properly until 2011. It was a big undertaking.'

That's an understatement. Tonja helpfully offers an overview of the project: 'We wanted to create a home that has a strong connection to its site and surroundings. We created a sunken extension to the rear that allowed the garden to slope up above the family dining room.'

The result is impressive, and quite rightly is up for a Sunday Times British Home Award. Every room has a story to tell, but for us the kitchen dominates. 'It is the heart of the house,' agrees Tonja. 'It was planned for entertaining.'

Now living in Gibson Square, N1, both admit to missing living at the De Beauvoir home. 'It was a labour of love for many years, but our dream has materialised into reality,' says Jez. 'It looks just like we imagined.'

✤ The property is on the market with Currell Residential at £1,950,000 – call 020 7226 4200 →

The family bathroom features natural limestone tiling and exposed Victorian brickwork to the feature wall

The property's sculptural form is positioned to draw in light and embrace the garden

LUXE LIVING

All lighting and heating is centrally controlled, and can be altered via iPad to set the right mood

The Scotts were insistent that the extension wasn't going to have a basement feel, but would be a part of the garden

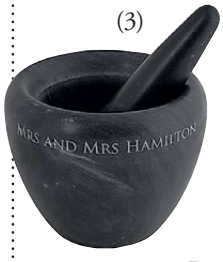
Ideas to steal

(1)

1. Banquet 4 Burner Gas Barbecue with Side Burner, £219.95.
✤ primrose.co.uk

(2)

2. Rowley Natural Wood and Nickel Tripod Standard Lamp, £254.
✤ artisanti.com



(3)

3. Personalised Marble Pestle and Mortar, £34.99.
✤ gettingpersonal.co.uk

(4)

4. Glove Chair by Conran, £1,750.
✤ darlingsofchelsea.co.uk

(5)

5. Solid Oak 2 x 3 Cube Shelf, £339.
✤ hampshirefurniture.co.uk

Period features include the fireplace and sash windows

The wall between the master bedroom and en-suite was opened up to increase the room's size

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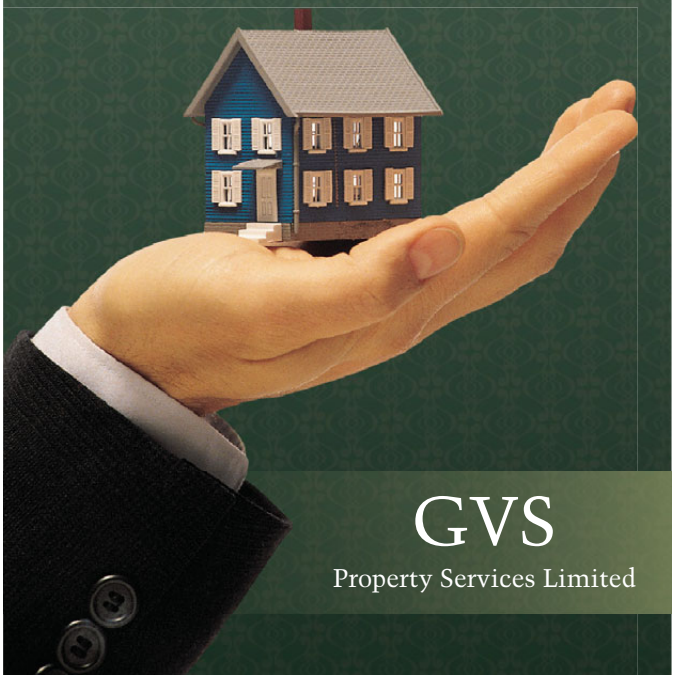

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All wrapped up

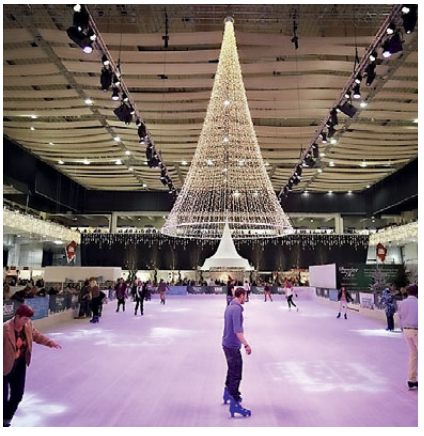
Keen to whip your festive planning into shape? Look no further than the Ideal Home Show at Christmas, a veritable feast of seasonal must-haves

From festive furnishings to New Year home improvements, sumptuous gifts to the finest foods and Christmas tipples, plus must-have gadgets and seasonal fashion trends, you can find it all under one roof.

Back for 2013, the Ideal Home Show at Christmas brings you everything you need to prepare your home for the festive season. From 13-17 November at Earls Court, this annual shopping event will give you ideas on decking the halls, filling stockings, trimming the turkey and much more. With over 650 exhibitors across seven sections – Interiors & Furnishings, Food & Drink, Home Improvements & Outdoor Living, Fashion & Beauty, Technology & Gadgets, Gifts and Christmas Decorations – this is the biggest home show at Christmas.

If you want to finish those last minute DIY jobs, learn how to prepare the perfect festive feast, complete your Christmas shopping, find the ultimate party outfit, discover decorations that add some sparkle, be inspired with hundreds of ideas or just enjoy a day out with friends and family, then you will find it all housed within Earls Court.

With all this as well as live entertainment, catwalk shows, celebrity chefs, industry experts, demonstrations, a spectacular skating rink and thousands of gift, home and food ideas, the Ideal Home Show at Christmas is a great festive day out. So join the celebrity team – Gino D'Acampo, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, Suzi Perry, Lisa Faulkner and Olly Smith – at the biggest home show you will experience at Christmas.



✤ Take advantage of our exclusive ticket giveaway. Email your name, address and contact details to offers@theresident.co.uk by 30 September to be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets in our free prize draw. Full Terms and Conditions apply: Please go to www.london24.com to view our full terms and conditions. By entering the prize draw we may send out news and selected offers that might interest you from our sister companies in the Archant Group including relevant offers from our advertisers. If you do not wish receive these, please place the word STOP in your email to us.

Find out more by visiting idealhomeshowchristmas.co.uk

ideal HOME SHOW at Christmas
13 - 17 NOVEMBER
EARLS COURT LONDON

❖ *Savills Fact No.7*

*On average we have achieved 99% of our stated guide price.**

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3 reception rooms ◆ family sized kitchen/dining room ◆ 5 bedrooms ◆ study/6th bedroom ◆ 3 bathrooms ◆ utility room ◆ separate w.c. ◆ front and rear gardens ◆ off street parking ◆ 311 sq m (3,351 sq ft) ◆ EPC=E

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Guide £3.25 million Freehold

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IMPRESSIVE FOUR BEDROOM HOME WITH REAR GARDEN

OCKENDON ROAD, N1

2 reception rooms ◆ kitchen/breakfast room ◆ 4 bedrooms ◆ 3 bathrooms ◆ garden ◆ 156 sq m (1,670 sq ft) ◆ EPC=D

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A FULLY REFURBISHED AND MODERNISED CENTRAL ISLINGTON TOWNHOUSE

TYNDALE TERRACE, N1

First floor reception room leading to terrace ◆ open plan kitchen/dining room ◆ cinema room ◆ master bedroom with en suite bathroom ◆ 3 bedrooms ◆ 2 bathrooms ◆ utility room ◆ terrace and 42' garden ◆ 229 sq m (2,473 sq ft) ◆ open house Saturday 21st September from 12.00 pm - 1.00 pm ◆ EPC=C

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Guide £2.795 million Freehold

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PRETTY FREEHOLD HOUSE IN THIS CENTRAL LOCATION

RALEIGH STREET, N1

Through reception room ◆ kitchen/dining room ◆ 2 bedrooms ◆ bathroom ◆ separate w.c. ◆ front vault ◆ garden ◆ 100 sq m (1,082 sq ft) ◆ EPC=E

Guide £1.1 million Freehold

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CHARMING EARLY GEORGIAN TOWN HOUSE IN A PRIME LOCATION

CHARLTON PLACE, N1

Through reception room ◆ kitchen ◆ dining room ◆ master bedroom ◆ 2 further double bedrooms ◆ main bathroom ◆ vaults ◆ loft ◆ garden ◆ 134 sq m (1,436 sq ft) ◆ EPC=D

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Liverpool Road, Islington N7

A two bedroom apartment within a converted warehouse

A very well presented second floor lateral apartment with a bright and spacious feel.
2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception/dining room, kitchen, lift.
EPC rating C. Approximately 109 sq m (1,173 sq ft).

Leasehold

Guide Price: £825,000

(ISL130196)

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Richmond Avenue, Islington N1

A four bedroom house on this popular residential street

The house is arranged over four floors and extended at the rear with a separate garage.
4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, guest WC, terrace, garden, garage. EPC rating F. Approximately 170.19 sq m (1,832 sq ft).

Freehold

Guide Price: £1,900,000

(ISL130299)

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Noel Road, Islington N1

Heart of Angel

A beautifully refurbished house which boasts a number of period features and has wonderful views of the Canal. The house is arranged over 5 floors consisting of 3 double bedrooms, master bedroom with terrace, study, open plan kitchen and dining room with access to a private garden with canal views, formal reception room and 3 bathrooms.
EPC rating D. Approximately 2117 sq ft (197 sq m).

Available unfurnished

Guide price: £1600 per week

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Worcester Point, Islington EC1V

Stunning apartment

A superb and spacious apartment set within this brand new development with concierge. The apartment consists of a large open plan kitchen and reception room, two double bedrooms, two bathrooms, built in storage and balcony with views of the shard. EPC rating B. Approximately 806 sq ft (75sq m)

Available furnished

Guide price: £680 per week

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020 8166 7502

(ISQ183463)

Barnsbury Street, Islington N1

Superb location

Knight Frank are pleased to offer this superb apartment in the heart of Angel which has been reburbished to a high standard.. The apartment is on the first floor of a period conversion and consists of an open plan kitchen and studio room, access to a private balcony and modern bathroom. EPC rating B.

Available unfurnished

Guide price: £345 per week

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NORTH STAND
HIGHBURY SQUARE

Photo: Joe Lord

MY AREA: Philip Mack

There is nothing quite like building momentum, regardless of the industry you are involved in. It's something Philip Mack, Branch Manager of Faron Sutaria Islington, knows only too well. 'This summer has been frenetic with extraordinary numbers of buyers registering and our property launches have been packed with viewers competing to buy the best quality homes,' he enthuses.

Faron Sutaria's launches are something a little different that have caught The Angel Resident's attention in the local market. 'With all our new properties we set a launch date, usually a Saturday,' Philip explains, 'and work towards booking in a number of viewers. It shows buyers that there really is competition and in order to secure the property they need to move quickly. It helps create excellent momentum in the marketing. This method also helps if there are tenants in the property or with young families as it concentrates the viewings on one day.'

> Islington offers tremendous variety in life, from transport options to live music venues

And competition for homes in Islington is certainly prevalent. 'The area offers tremendous variety in life,' Philip says on N1's appeal. 'There are excellent transport options, a central location, lots of restaurants and bars catering for every taste, many different theatres, good live music venues, open spaces and the Regent's Canal.'

While we are talking momentum, how does Philip see 2013 concluding? 'The market has a robust feel to it and this is going to continue whilst finance is readily available, interest rates are so low and the economic mood is upbeat.'

Insider information

✤ Typical property:
There is such variety in Islington that there is no 'typical' property.

✤ Average sale price:
That is currently £720,000.

✤ Popular parts:
De Beauvoir town is increasing in popularity as it offers better value for money compared with the more traditional stalwarts like St Peters Street Conservation Area, Barnsbury and Canonbury.

What I love...

What do you like best about Angel and the surrounding area?
I love the buzz and activity of Upper Street and the fact that a two minute walk takes you into quiet garden squares.

Do you have a favourite restaurant?
Chipotle on Upper Street – canteen-style Mexican food that is absolutely delicious.

Is there a pub you loving going to?
The Island Queen is a great local pub, with excellent pub snacks, interesting furniture and a wide range of beers served over an original brass bar.

Where can you get the best coffee or tea?
Euphorium do the best coffee.

What is your favourite film, book and band?
Heat, starring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino; the South American trilogy by Louis De Bernieres; and Kings of Leon.

Do you have an Islington 'secret'?
I love the Graham Street park, which is nestled peacefully by the canal.

At an imaginary dinner party, which four guests – dead or alive – would you invite?
Bob Marley – I love his music and think he would be a fascinating character; Tommy Cooper – he still makes me laugh; Freddie Flintoff – inspirational cricketer; and William Shakespeare.

If money was no object Philip, what one thing would you like to own?
An Aston Martin DBS…

✤ Philip Mack is Branch Manager at Faron Sutaria, 108-109 Upper Street N1 1QN; 020 7354 9737; faronsutaria.co.uk

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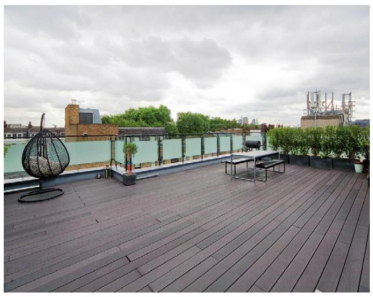

Providence Place

Islington N1

A spectacular 2 double bedroom penthouse apartment, set within this development in the heart of Islington Green & within moments of Angel underground station. This property also benefits from a phenomenal roof terrace, master bedroom en-suite & open-plan kitchen/reception room.

EPC rating D

£1,195,000 guide price
leasehold

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SINCE 1805

Laycock Street
Islington N1

A beautifully presented 2 double bedroom duplex apartment with accommodation arranged over the 2nd & 3rd floors of this highly regarded modern development. The apartment has been finished to a very high standard & offers extremely convenient access to Highbury & Islington station & the amenities of Upper Street.

EPC rating B

£899,950 guide price
leasehold

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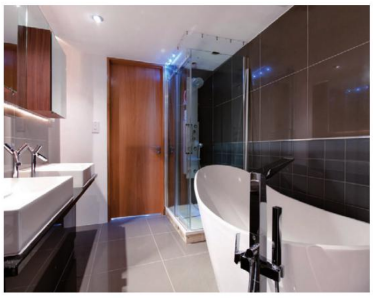

Old Street

Finsbury EC1V

Stunning penthouse apartment with incomparable views of the London skyline from various private roof terraces. Boasting a fabulous internal space with private off street parking & key lift entry only. Arranged over 2 floors the property comprises 4 double bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, walk in wardrobe & remarkable open plan reception room flanked by 2 impressive private roof terraces with panoramic views of the City of London, which connects to a state of the art kitchen & utility room. The location is ideal for easy walking access to the City & Old Street underground station.

EPC rating C

£3,000
per week

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Buckingham Mews

De Beauvoir N1

Bright & spacious 3 double bedroom mews house in the residential area of De Beauvoir. The property consists large reception room, separate kitchen with ample storage, downstairs WC, 3 double bedrooms with good storage, modern family bathroom, private patio & private off street parking. Dalston station is within easy access to this property. Available now on a furnished basis.

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CLUTTONS

Calabria Road London N5

reception room | 3 bedrooms | bathroom | kitchen/breakfast room
EPC rating D

A wonderful maisonette arranged over the top two floors of a Victorian terraced house a stone's throw from Highbury Fields

Guide price **£850,000 leasehold**

Laycock Street London N1

reception room | 2 bedrooms | bathroom | kitchen | cloakroom
private parking | patio garden | EPC rating D

A contemporary mews house set within a private gated development a short distance from Upper Street and moments from Highbury & Islington station

Guide price **£725,000 share of freehold**

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CLUTTONS

Coleman Fields London N1

reception room with open-plan kitchen | 2 bedrooms | bathroom
cloakroom | garden | EPC rating C

A fabulous split-level maisonette within this renowned modern development adjacent to the Arlington Conservation Area

Guide price **£575,000 share of freehold**

Blackthorn Avenue London N7

reception room with open-plan kitchen | bedroom | bathroom
balcony | concierge | EPC rating C

A superb apartment offering beautifully appointed contemporary accommodation within the popular Arundel Square development

Guide price **£395,000 share of freehold**

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CLUTTONS

St. Pancras Chambers London NW1

reception room with open-plan kitchen | 2 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms
concierge | lift access | EPC rating E

Superb second floor apartment within the grade I listed St. Pancras Chambers landmark development

Furnished **£950 per week**

Coleridge Road London N4

reception room | 3 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms | kitchen/breakfast room
cloakroom | garden | off-street parking | EPC rating D

Substantial period conversion with a stunning interior and large private garden conveniently located for links into the City

Furnished **£595 per week**

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CLUTTONS

Islington Green London N1

reception room with open-plan kitchen | bedroom | bathroom
walk-in wardrobe/study | EPC rating C

Refurbished split-level apartment finished to a high specification and boasting a central location on Islington Green

Furnished **£475 per week**

Barnsbury Place London N1

reception room wih open-plan kitchen | 2 bedrooms | bathroom
lift access | concierge | EPC rating C

Contemporary apartment in a prestigious gated development in the Barnsbury Conservation Area

Furnished **£425 per week**

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GOLD LARGE ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2012 THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

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Ockendon Road N1 £1,800,000 Freehold
A stunning three bedroom period terraced house in a sought after road in Islington. This family house features a subtle and balanced blend of luxurious contemporary finishes with restored period detailing. 3 bedrooms / South facing garden / Separate studio. **EPC:D**

Noel Road N1 £1,999,999 Freehold
A fabulous three bedroom period terraced house in one of Islington's most sought after roads moments away from Angel. This family home features a subtle and balanced blend of contemporary finishes with period detailing. 3 bedrooms / Open plan kitchen/dining room / Decked garden. **EPC:E**

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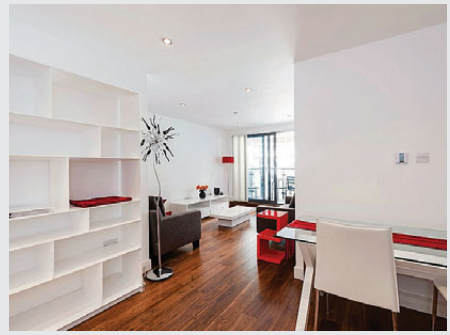
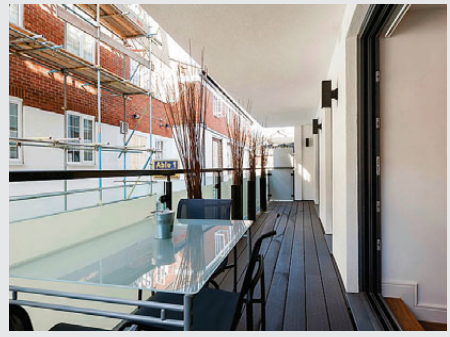
HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL





Providence Place N1 £650 per week LONG LET
Perfect corporate apartment in the heart of Islington with two bedrooms, two bathrooms and large balcony whilst being seconds from the amenities of Upper Street with modern fittings throughout. Two Bedroom / Contemporary Fittings / Balcony. **EPC:C**

Clock Tower Mews N1 £690 per week LONG LET
Very well presented mews house within close proximity to Angel/Upper Street benefiting from well proportioned rooms and private garden. Two/Three Bedrooms / Central Location / Private Garden. **EPC:D**

Islington Office
Lettings. 020 7717 5455 | islingtonlettings@hamptons-int.com

Available on the App Store

RENTAL RISE

Latest figures show that rental activity is at an 11-year high, with demand pushing rents up by 2% on month to £751 nationally, with London's average rents rising 5% annually to £1,437

Property NEWS

Who is buying: Some of the houses have been divided up into apartments, making the street appealing to both young professional couples and also large families.

Typical price: Period homes at the north end of the road are typically five storeys with guide prices starting from £2,500,000.

Street of the month

HEMINGFORD ROAD

This is a wide tree-lined road of fine early Victorian houses within the sought after Barnsbury Conservation Area.

Built in 1845, Hemingford Road was part of a larger collection of streets known as Hemingford Place, Hemingford Terrace East, Hemingford Terrace West and Hemingford Cottages. The houses here are generous in width, with the vast majority being Grade II listed. One of Hemingford Road's hidden gems is Barnsbury Wood, London's smallest nature reserve, which sits behind the North end of Hemingford Road, providing such an attractive outlook for the houses in this section of the road.

In terms of amenities and transport, Hemingford Road is well placed for access to all the facilities of Upper Street and its many shops and restaurants, and is roughly equidistant from Angel and Highbury & Islington stations. Not to be ignored, King's Cross and St Pancras International Station, with its speedy connections to Europe, are also within walking distance.

By Jo-Anne Neighbour, Savills; 020 7226 1313

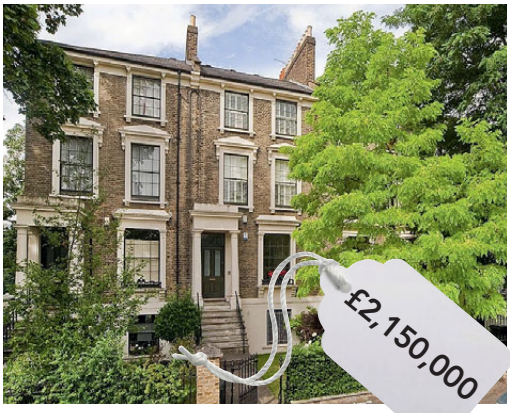
Properties to buy in your neighbourhood

LOCAL LUXE

Victorian family home

This beautifully presented 2,700 sq ft home on Freegrove Road is set over three floors and includes six bedrooms, two bathrooms and two reception rooms.

Cluttons, 6 Camden Walk N1 8DY; 020 7354 6666; cluttons.com



Grade II-listed residence

A stunning four bedroom home on Clissold Road, one of Stoke Newington's most popular roads. The house has been beautifully restored throughout and features elegant and contemporary design.

Chesterton Humberts, 327-329 Upper Street N1 2XQ; 020 3040 8240; chestertonhumberts.com

Four floor period house

A very attractive house in King's Cross offering desirable aspects and a separate entrance to a self-contained apartment on lower ground floor.

Knight Frank, 353 Upper Street N1 0PD; 020 3657 7340; knightfrank.co.uk

Currell Residential

£1,750,000 Freehold

St Paul's Place, N1

- Four bedrooms
- Bright double reception room
- Stunning master bedroom suite
- Lovely 60 ft rear garden

£1,895,000 Leasehold

Novara Row, N5

- 2288 sq ft modern home
- Five bedrooms with three bathrooms
- Fabulous newly fitted luxury kitchen
- Spacious 29 ft reception room with gallery

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RESIDENTIAL CONSULTANTS

STAVORDALE ROAD N5

Former Prime Minister's double fronted house with larger than average garden

£1,695,000

THE COURTYARD, BARNSBURY TERRACE N1

3 bedroom house at the end of a private road in Barnsbury

£1,250,000

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Witherington Road, London N5 £1,250,000

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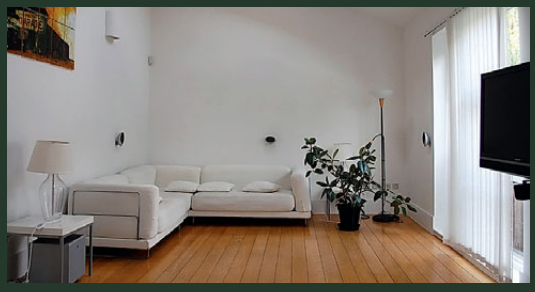

Prices Mews, Matilda Street, N1 £595pw

Beautifully converted mews house in cobblestoned, award-winning gated development in Barnsbury. With two double bedrooms, stylish bathroom and large open-plan kitchen and lounge with vaulted ceiling and wood floors.

Passionate about properties

My Angel

(3)

Dubbed the Duchess of Whitecross Street, Eleni Duke is arguably London's youngest gallerist. After leaving the University of Kent with a degree in History and Philosophy of Art in 2008, Eleni had a clear vision of what she wanted to bring to the arts industry – young emerging artists celebrating surreal and unique art, which she has brought to EC1.

(4)

(2)

I opened the gallery… in 2011 and thought it was going to be much easier than it has been – every entrepreneur thinks the same. It was tough: there are people rooting for you to fail, but that only made me more determined.

I am a born and bred North Londoner… so it is nice to have a gallery on my home territory. Also, having an art gallery in an inner London community is fantastic, as I get both the incredible vibe of the city life alongside the community values that are more frequently seen in the outer London boroughs. (2)

Whitecross Street is… becoming an incredibly creative hub in London. It is also fairly undiscovered, which makes it feel more exclusive. Every year in July we have the Whitecross Street Party, which exhibits work from urban artists around the world and brings a fantastically creative crowd to the street, so I am thrilled to be a part of it.

(1)

Having an art gallery in an inner London community is fantastic. I get the vibe and the community values

There are so many… fantastic places to eat, drink and shop in Angel and Clerkenwell. I love the Camden Passage antiques market – you never know what you might find there. I love Gallipoli on Upper Street too, and there is a fantastic coffee shop called Workshop Coffee, which is great for those early morning meetings on Clerkenwell Road. (4)

To get away from it all… I head to Alexandra Palace Hill. On a beautifully sunny day, it gives you a great view of the city without having to be there. (3)

My favourite building in the area is… St Bartholomew the Great, which is a church built circa the 12th century and is sandwiched between two other buildings built centuries later. It is a gorgeous little spot in Clerkenwell that gives you an incredible insight into the history of London. (1)

In October… Curious Duke are hosting Sam Peacock's first solo show in London, *Unseen Landscape*, which launches on 3 October.

✤ 207 Whitecross Street EC1Y 8QP; 020 7251 6551; curiousdukegallery.com

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